

Husseini links charter change to prisoners

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A senior West Bank Palestinian leader on Tuesday hinted that Israel should release its Palestinian prisoners in exchange for a decision by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to amend anti-Israeli provisions in its charter. "To modify the charter you have to convince the Palestinian people that the time for peace has come," Faisal Husseini said on Israeli Television. "You can't do that while maintaining certain categories of prisoners in detention." Israel, currently holding 6,000 Palestinian prisoners, has been pressing the PLO to remove articles from its charter calling for the elimination of "the Zionist presence in Palestine" and declaring "illegal" the division of Palestine by the United Nations in 1947. Israel since May has released more than 4,000 prisoners but has refused to free others charged with killing Israelis. Mr. Husseini ruled out any immediate move to amend the charter as "a third of the members of the Palestine National Council are opposed to the move." He said the change in the charter could not take place until after Palestinian elections on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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Sayeh to return to Jerusalem

AMMAN (AP) — Abdul Hamid Sayeh, the first Palestinian activist to be banished after Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war, said Wednesday he was going back home. The 67-year-old native of Jerusalem became chairman of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in 1984 but quit the post last year. His health is ailing. "I have decided to go back to my homeland," said Sheikh Sayeh. He added that Israel has given permission to return, but "some preparations" had to be made before he heads back in two weeks time, after 27 years in exile. Family members said that despite his ill-health, Sheikh Sayeh planned to continue political activities in Jerusalem. Despite his return, Sheikh Sayeh remains critical of Yasser Arafat's autonomy deal with Israel, saying it falls short of what he sees as the Palestinians' right to an independent state in all of the occupied territories. He has also rejected the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader's attempts to convene a PNC meeting in Gaza to remove clauses in the PNC charter that call for Israel's elimination.

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Sheikh Zayed meets Majali in Geneva

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), held talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali in Geneva on Tuesday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

It was the first high-level meeting between Jordan and the UAE after the 1991 Gulf crisis.

Petra said Sheikh Zayed and Dr. Majali discussed bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process. It did not elaborate. Sheikh Zayed is on a private visit to Geneva.

Dr. Majali, who is on his way to the U.S. on a lecture tour on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, also held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Petra said.

Israeli Arab deputy to meet Iraqi envoy

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli Arab deputy announced Wednesday he intended to defy Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and meet with Iraq's U.N. ambassador. The deputy, Abdul Wahab Darawseh, is a member of the Arab Democratic Party, which has two seats in Israel's parliament. He was speaking during a private visit to the United States. "I want to see the four year embargo against Iraq lifted and I want to meet (Iraq's) ambassador to the U.N. with a view to integrating his country into the Middle East peace process," said Mr. Darawseh. "We live in an era of peace. We must therefore talk of peace, look to the future and forget the dark days of the past," he added, alluding to Iraq's 39 Scud missile attacks on Israel during the 1991 Gulf war. "After all," he continued, "Iraqi President Saddam Hussein must also forget Israel's air raid on the Osirak nuclear power station (on June 7, 1981)" (see related story on page 12).

PFLP claims grenade attack

DAMASCUS (AFP) — A Palestinian group said Wednesday that it carried out the attack on a military post in Bethlehem on the occupied West Bank that wounded four Israeli soldiers. Commandos from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) "launched a grenade attack on an Israeli position causing several casualties," the Damascus-based group said. Tuesday's attack also set the building on fire and all the commandos escaped, said the PFLP.

2 killed in S. Lebanon clash

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Two Palestinian guerrillas have been killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol inside the strip of territory Israel occupies in South Lebanon. Security sources said Wednesday. The sources said a guerrilla squad infiltrated late Tuesday into the village of Qantara, just inside the central sector of the enclave Israel maintains as a "security zone." An Israeli patrol spotted the infiltrators and a clash ensued. The bodies of the two guerrillas were found during search operations mounted by Israeli troops in helicopter gunships and tanks at dawn.

Swedish worker released in Somalia

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Somali kidnappers have released a Swedish aid worker held for two weeks apparently for ransom, government and aid officials said Wednesday. Lena Thelander, 28, a worker from the private charity International Aid Sweden, was released late Tuesday. News of her release was made public Wednesday.

Israel begins handing over W. Bank to Palestinians

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Palestinians here took control of their education system for the first time on Wednesday, even though the 350,000 West Bank pupils will have to wait another year to learn about their own history.

In Cairo, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were set to initial an agreement allowing the Palestinians to run their own civilian affairs in the West Bank from mid-September, as self-rule enters its second phase.

"It's an historic process," said the top PLO negotiator, Nabil Shaath. "This is the start ... towards implementing the peace accords in the West Bank," which has been under Israeli occupation since 1967.

"This confirms the unity of the two parts of the Palestinian land: Gaza and Jericho on the one hand, and the West Bank on the other," he said.

Dr. Shaath spoke to journalists during a break from tough negotiations which opened Monday at a luxury hotel on the banks of the Nile.

The delegates were still meeting late Wednesday. Israeli and Palestinian officials said they were adding the "final touches."

Dr. Shaath said the negotiators agreed that control of health care, tourism and some other services would transfer to Palestinians throughout the West Bank on Sept. 12.

Dr. Shaath told reporters the date would be part of the agreement expected to be initialled later in the day.

Dr. Shaath said the Sept. 12 date was set for transferring other powers because a meeting of countries donating aid to the Palestinians was scheduled three days earlier, (Continued on page 7)

Israel, PLO initial accord

CAIRO (AP) — Israeli and PLO negotiators initialled a new agreement on Wednesday to transfer to the Palestinians responsibility for health care, tourism and other services throughout the West Bank.

The 42-page agreement still must be approved by the Israeli cabinet and Palestinian National Authority, which took control of the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May.

The pact will give Palestinians in areas still occupied by Israel a measure of self-rule for the first time.

The chief PLO negotiator, Nabil Shaath, and his Israeli counterpart, Maj. Gen. Danny Rothchild told reporters after initialling the document that they expected it would be reviewed by the national authority and Israeli cabinet over the weekend.

meanings last-minute details of financing could be worked out.

The way was cleared for the overall agreement when the two sides on Tuesday completed work on the topic of taxation. The subject was complicated because while Palestinians will collect the taxes, Israel will retain control over other activities, including security.

Dr. Shaath urged that negotiators move on quickly to discussing elections for a legislative assembly, which he expects will give the PLO a true mandate to govern. However, Palestinians say they cannot hold elections while Israel is still occupying a large part of the West Bank.

The autonomous areas currently are being governed by an 18-member Palestinian National Authority appointed by PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

The chief Israeli negotiator, General Danny Rothchild, also said earlier that the two sides had almost finalised a document on the general principles for the transfer of civilian powers in the occupied West Bank.

The latest accord would be "an important and essential step toward a final settlement," said Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, whose country hosts the PLO-Israeli autonomy negotiations.

Dr. Shaath said he would

Party and the Unionist Socialist Democratic Party. Despite the ballot, President Assad, who seized power in a 1971 coup, retains a firm, highly centralised grip on power and the elections are essentially a procedural affair rather than a political contest between rival parties.

Foreign policy, security and even Syria's peace negotiations with Israel are never subject to public debate.

Parliament's main function is to provide the government with a barometer of the sentiment among various interest groups rather than serve as a decision-making body.

However, the large expected turnout and joyous mood that have characterised these and other elections in recent years unmistakably reflect a thirst for democracy among the populace.

The People's Assembly was formed with 145 seats a year after Mr. Assad's bloodless coup and later expanded. Its last four-year term ended June 10.

objectives in negotiations with the Jewish state.

The opinion poll was conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan between Aug. 18 and 20 and covered 1,172 "randomly selected people from all over the Kingdom." The target audience included both males and females over the age of 19.

Asked whether they supported or opposed the Washington Declaration, 80.2 per cent said they supported it, 14.1 said they opposed it and 5.7 said they were unsure.

The poll organisers, mindful of grounds for argument by opponents of the peace process, cautioned that support for the declaration could be seen at an absolute level of 72 per cent. They cited the five-per-cent margin of error that the survey allowed and the assumption that the five per cent of those polled refused to answer this question

opposed the Jordanian-Israeli peace moves as the reasons for the lower figure.

On the other hand, 52.7 per cent of those who opposed the declaration believed that Jordan's economy would improve as a result of peace and 52.4 said Jordan would be able to regain its territorial and water rights from Israel.

"It clearly indicates that a good segment of those who reject making peace with Israel base their positions on ideological and doctrinal positions as well as religious grounds," said Mustafa Hamameh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies.

"The ball is clearly in Israel's court," Dr. Hamameh said in explaining the results of the survey.

"Jordanians have optimistic and realistic expectations of the peace negotiations and it is up to Israel to live up to the expectations."

But, Dr. Hamameh

warned, people could change opinions quickly on such a dynamic subject. "If the Tabat experience is to be repeated, then that will put a damper on people's enthusiasm over the peace process," Dr. Hamameh said.

His statement was a reference to the prolonged negotiations over the Tabat beach resort that Israel held with Egypt as the final phase of their peacemaking in the early 80s. Israel was widely seen as procrastinating and unwilling to return the Egyptian territory to Egypt. The issue could not be settled in negotiations and had to be resolved by the International Court of Justice, which ruled in favour of Egypt.

The highlights of the findings of the poll were:

— The highest level of support for the Washington Declaration came from the northern governorates with 85.1 per cent; the lowest was in Irbid city with 73.9 per cent.

King meets Posoalyuk

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received at the Royal Court Viktor Posoalyuk, a personal representative of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who arrived in Amman Tuesday as part of a regional tour.

King Hussein and the Russian envoy discussed developments in the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Posoalyuk said Moscow welcomed the Washington Declaration signed last month between Jordan and Israel ending the state of belligerency between the two countries and said his government considers the declaration as an important step on the way to resolving the conflict.

Israel ready to quit Golan for peace, Beilin says

OSLO (Agencies) — Israel is ready to withdraw from the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria and such a deal could be reached quickly once Damascus agrees to direct talks, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said on Wednesday.

"There is an Israeli readiness to pull out of Golan after years of saying we would not give back an inch," Mr. Beilin told an early morning news conference in Oslo.

"The Syrians are ready to normalise relations with Israel ... once we sit down together in direct negotiations, I believe it would only be a matter of some months until we could sign an agreement with Syria," he said.

Mr. Beilin declined to say if Israel could conceive of making a complete withdrawal from Golan. But he indicated all or most of the strategically important plateau seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war was negotiable.

"The extent of our withdrawal would be parallel to the level of peace achieved," said Mr. Beilin, in Norway after visiting Denmark and Sweden.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has pledged to hold a national referendum on any deal involving an essential pullout from Golan.

"We are prepared to bring a very hard decision to the people. It would not be a question of just a few inches," said Mr. Beilin, adding it might be necessary to dismantle Israeli settlements on Golan to implement a peace deal.

The United States has mediated between Israel and Syria for almost three years, most recently in a series of shuttles by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"We are closer to peace with Syria than ever, but developments have nevertheless not been satisfactory," said Mr. Beilin, calling on Syria to negotiate directly with Israel.

Mr. Beilin, one of the architects of the peace deal brokered by Norway between Israel and the Palestinians, said there was an historic chance for peace with Syria but time was running short.

Yemeni president plans two-party coalition

SANAA (R) — The Islamic Islah party and President Ali Abdullah Saleh's party are discussing formation of a new Yemeni government excluding southern socialists defeated in the civil war, a senior official and Islah member said.

"It seems things are moving in the direction of a coalition between the (Saleh's) General Peoples Congress (GPC) and Islah," Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Ali Al Ansi told Reuters in an interview.

Political sources said last week a new coalition would be announced before the end of August.

But Mr. Ansi said, "it is difficult to mention any date."

The Aden-based Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) merged southern Yemen with Mr. Saleh's north four years ago and remains officially in the cabinet although its senior leaders have been denounced by Mr. Saleh as traitors for trying to break up the union.

Islah, the traditional political enemy of the secular YSP, strongly supported Mr. Saleh during a two-month civil war that ended on July 7 with the defeat of southern secessionists led by YSP leader Ali Saleh Al Beidh.

The party has been largely in disarray since.

Four of its members who did not join the breakaway state remain in the government that was originally formed as a three-party coalition of the GPC, YSP and Islah.

The YSP's Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas was prime minister but he and other YSP leaders who supported the breakaway state were

sacked by Mr. Saleh who in May appointed a close aide, Mohammad Said Al Attar, as acting prime minister.

Mr. Ansi said GPC and Islah were holding talks aimed "at defining a clear basis for the decision-making within the new coalition to avoid past mistakes."

He said the two parties were not trying to exclude the YSP but the party has not been able yet to define its position.

"The new coalition is not an attempt for polarisation. We are committed to the principle of pluralism and the multi-party system," Mr. Ansi said.

"We do not want to interfere in the YSP affairs or try to weaken it or belittle its political role. On the contrary we want to help it overcome its problems," he said. Meanwhile, pistol-packing

Yemen, with three guns for every person, plans to ban the carrying of firearms in cities.

"We are making efforts to ban the carrying of weapons once and for all in the cities and re-organise carrying (arms) under licence in other areas," Interior Minister Yahya Al Mutawakel told a meeting of senior police and security officers.

The meeting, attended by President Saleh, was shown on Sanaa Television on Tuesday night.

Mr. Mutawakel said earlier this year that more than 50 million guns were in private hands in Yemen.

Political sources believed the figure had grown considerably since the civil war. They said that during the conflict large quantities of weapons were seized as booty by soldiers and civilians.



Algerian talks resume

ALGIERS (AFP) — President Liamine Zeroul and delegations from five Algerian opposition parties held a second round of talks Wednesday after breaking for a day, official sources said.

The five parties which agreed to take part in the talks were: The National Liberation Front (FLN), Algeria's former ruling party, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, former President Ahmad Ben Bella's party, the Algerian Reform Party and two Islamic parties, rivals to the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the Islamic Society Movement and the Islamic Renaissance Movement.

The Socialist Forces led by Hocine Ait Ahmad, which was also invited to the talks, refused to take part in the talks.

Majority of Jordanians support Washington Declaration, poll finds

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Eighty per cent of Jordanians support the Washington Declaration ending the state of belligerency and paving the way for a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel, according to the results of an opinion poll released Wednesday.

The findings of the poll indicate that those who oppose Jordan's move towards peace with Israel do so mainly based on "doctrinal and ideological" grounds rather than on a belief that the Kingdom would not be able to secure its rights in negotiations with the Jewish state.

The poll, conducted last week, last found that 82.2 per cent believe that Jordan's economy would benefit from making peace with Israel and 69 per cent believe that the Kingdom would be able to secure its territorial and water rights and achieve its security

objectives.

— 9.6 of those polled said they opposed the peace process because they believed that no just peace could be achieved; 8.4 per cent said they opposed it on religious grounds; 2.2 per cent said they based their opposition on economic grounds; 2.9 per cent cited moral reasons; 0.6 per cent cited other reasons and one per cent cited no specific reason (the survey had room for more than one reason to be cited by each and hence the disproportionate percentages).

— Asked whether the peace process would contribute to the realisation of the rights of "displaced" Palestinians, 57.6 per cent said yes, 22.5 per cent said no and 11.5 per cent were unsure.

— Replying to the same question in relation to the rights of Palestinian "refugees," 43 per cent said yes, 36.8 per cent said no and 20.1 per cent were unsure.

The Centre for Strategic Studies has conducted several opinion polls in Jordan, including one shortly before the 1993 general election. The results of that survey proved mostly accurate when the actual elections took place.

— On the same question in relation to Jordan's water rights, 75.9 per cent of all the target audience said the Kingdom would get its full share of water, 15.7 said no and 8.4 per cent were unsure.

— 82 per cent of those supported the negotiations with Israel and 52.1 per cent of those who opposed the talks also said they believed Jordan would be able to secure its water rights.

— Asked whether Jordan would be able to achieve its security objectives, 68.3 per cent of the audience said yes, 22.2 per cent said no and 11.5 per cent were unsure.

— 74.3 of those who supported the peace process and 43 per cent who opposed it also said they believed Jordan would be able to achieve its

security objectives.

— 84.5 among those with less than elementary education and 83.9 per cent with elementary education supported the declaration.

— 82.8 per cent said Jordan's economic situation would improve as a result of the peace process; 5.4 per cent expected no change, 6.6 per cent said it would worsen and 5.2 per cent said they did not know.

Among those who said the economy would improve, only 49.4 per cent said the economic benefits would be visible in the short term.

— 89 per cent of those who supported the Washington Declaration and 52.7 per cent of those who opposed it said yes when asked if Jordan would get economic benefits from the peace process.

— Asked whether they believed Jordan would regain its land, 71.2 per cent of those polled said yes, 17.5 per cent said no and

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Israel seeks aid for extending self-rule

STOCKHOLM (R) — Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said on Tuesday he had discussed with Sweden financing for extending Palestinian autonomy under the so-called early empowerment process.

Mr. Beilin, on a Nordic tour during which he will visit donor nations, said he was making the approach jointly on behalf of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The PLO and Israel were due to an initial agreement in Cairo on Wednesday to expand Palestinian autonomy to the rest of the West Bank in five spheres of life — the early empowerment deal.

After meeting Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas, Mr. Beilin told a news conference: "I raised here with the Swedish government the question of financing the early empowerment."

"We promised the Palestinians to raise it with the donors, so that part of the money which (the donors) pledged to Palestinian autonomy will be directed towards the early empowerment to finance these... different authorities," he added.

The agreement should extend Palestinian powers over health, education, tourism, welfare and direct taxation in the West Bank beyond the small self-rule enclaves of Jericho and the Gaza Strip, handed over by Israel in May.

Passing on responsibility for direct taxation of the West Bank's nearly one million Palestinians had been the main obstacle in Cairo.

But Israel and the PLO agreed last week to jointly approach donor countries with a request to support the initial funding of the agreement with \$30 to \$40 million.

Mr. Beilin said that while these negotiations between Israel and the PLO were now set to move ahead, the next phase of parallel multilateral negotiations, initiated internationally after the Moscow conference of 1992, would also be important.

"I believe that apart from the developments on the bilateral levels it will be very important to go on with the multilateral level, which means actually (creating) common infrastructure in the Middle East," he told reporters.

The working group for regional economic development, chaired by the European Union, is in charge of this area of the talks and has already obtained pledges from donors for support in areas like energy, water, telecommunications and roads.

Mr. Beilin said he believed good progress had been made in these discussions and hoped that it would lead in time to people in the region realising that peace was an economic as well as a political process.

"That can only happen when they see the economic benefits," he said.

Beyond the first infrastructure moves, Mr. Beilin said he could envisage a common market but only in several years' time.

"I believe that in the first step we are going to have a common infrastructure... only later maybe in five years, maybe in 10, it will be possible to have a common market."

"It will be very difficult, maybe even dangerous, to have a common market once you take into consideration the differences between our economies," he added.

Kohl meets Peres

In Bonn, Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Germany wants the European Union (EU) to reach a new and improve cooperation pact with Israel soon.

Mr. Kohl told visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that Bonn wanted the Jewish state to be closely associated with the 12-member EU.

"The chancellor stressed the German government's wish for a quick conclusion to current negotiations between Israel and the European Union over revising their 1975 cooperation protocol," Mr. Kohl's spokesman Dieter Vogel said after the talks.

"The new accord must take account of the peace process in the region and include qualitative improvements," the spokesman said in a statement.

Israel is looking for greater access to European agricultural markets, research and development programme and government contracts with EU member states to cut its current \$5 billion trade deficit with the EU bloc.

The EU agreed in principle to renegotiate its protocol last December but since then Israel says several EU countries have procrastinated. Germany holds the six-month EU presidency until Jan. 1.

Mr. Peres said earlier that Israel would like to see Germany play a greater international role and take a seat on the United Nations Security Council.

The Bonn government has sought a permanent seat on a reformed U.N. Security Council, a request backed earlier this year by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Asked by reporters whether he favoured a German place on the council, Mr. Peres said: "Yes. One should no longer see Germany through the angle of the past but the angle of the future."

"Germany must play a bigger role in world politics," added Mr. Peres.

U.N. promises quick look at Kuwait fires claim

GENEVA (Agencies) — The U.N. body charged with compensating victims of Iraq's 1990 occupation of Kuwait is to appoint experts to examine a \$1 billion claim for the cost of putting out hundreds of oil well fires, it said on Tuesday.

The United Nations Compensation Commission, which has so far received more than \$100 billion in claims against Iraq, said it considered the oil well issue had a "symbolic character" for most Kuwaitis.

Although the commission has started paying out on smaller claims by individuals, it has not yet tackled any larger commercial claims.

Iraqi troops are accused of setting alight hundreds of wells as they were retreating from Kuwait in early 1991, fleeing U.S.-led forces. The Kuwait Oil Company later claimed more than \$950 million for the cost of putting them out.

"Because of its economic, environmental and health hazard connotations, this claim for the burning of the oil wells — that altered so much Kuwait's desert landscape and life — took a symbolic character for Kuwait," the commission said in a statement.

The commission had decided to appoint as soon as possible a panel of commissioners to examine and report back on the claim.

The experts will be chosen jointly by the commission itself and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and will start their work as soon as possible.

The compensation programme is an unprecedented attempt to provide redress for war victims.

Altogether the commission is considering \$160 billion worth of claims from some 2.5 million people and businesses who say they were harmed by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The vast majority are from migrant workers, including one million Egyptians who were forced to flee Kuwait and Iraq, leaving behind their jobs, money and possessions.

The first compensation of \$2.7 million was paid earlier this summer to 650 people who suffered serious injuries or who lost family members during the Iraqi invasion.



SYRIANS VOTE: A Syrian woman casts her ballot during the Syrian legislative elections on Wednesday (see page one) (AFP photo)

Court ruling on veil a blow to Cairo's efforts

CAIRO (AP) — In a setback to the government's efforts to control Islamic fundamentalists, a court has annulled an order that prevented school girls from wearing the veil without parental approval.

When Education Minister Hussein Bahaaeddine issued the order last month, he said it was meant to stop students from being coerced by fundamentalists into covering their hair in line with conservative Muslim thinking.

It immediately aroused anger from fundamentalist lawyers and many parents. Yehia Abu Al Magd, a lawyer who opposed the ruling said more than 200 parents, school administrators and lawyers filed six cases against the order.

A bearded man sitting in the front row of the stuffy court room cried "Allahu Akbar," as the verdict was read in the administrative judicial court on Tuesday.

Judge Magdi Abu Al Nadi, who announced the verdict, gave the man an angry look. Mr. Abu Al Nadi only stated the court's decision without offering an explanation. A statement on the legal reasons behind the ruling is to be issued in several days.

The order is to be immediately implemented even if the minister appeals within the 15-day legal period. It was not immediately clear if an appeal would be filed.

The Egyptian government, which has been battling for two years to put down a campaign of violence by Islamic radicals, is increasingly finding itself challenged in the courts by fundamentalist lawyers.

At the time Mr. Bahaaeddine issued the ruling, he said he was protecting primary school girls from being forced into taking the veil by teachers who beat them.

Requiring parental consent of the veil would put an end to "terrorism" by teachers, he said. He also said in an interview early this month that coercing students to wear the veil was part of "an extremist tide trying to invade Egypt."

Taking the veil is one of the thorniest issues in Egypt. It is constantly debated in newspapers, getting support or opposition based on different interpretations from a verse in the Koran.

Verse 31 of the Koran's sura "The Light" says: "And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and be modest, and to display of their adornment only that which is apparent, and to draw their veils over their bosoms..."

Fundamentalists say this call for veiling. Some others say it is only a recommendation for modesty.

About 10 teenage girls wearing veils showed up to hear the ruling.

"Other girls are free to go to the school dressed as they like... we too have a personal freedom to go as we like," said an 18-year-old who gave her name as Dalia and wore the most conservative veil that allows only the eyes to show.

"We are old enough to decide for ourselves what to wear," she said.

Abdul Halim Mandour, one of the lawyers bringing suit against the education minister's ruling, said it was clear his side would be successful.

They have said specifically that it does not advocate abortion as a family planning method. But the draft urges making available information on safe abortion in view of the thousands of women who die from illegal operations.

Some Muslim groups have complained that a call for providing family planning information to non-married couples encourages sin and that a reference in the draft to "a plurality" of forms for families means advocating homosexual marriage.

Gen. Alfay said in a meeting with security officials that police "will not allow any demonstrations which might harm the... values and traditions" of the Egyptian people, almost all of whom are Muslim.

He also emphasised the conference would be important in proving the success of Egypt's efforts to quell the rebellion by Muslim militants.

Egyptian officials hope the conference, the largest ever held in Cairo, will help rebuild the country's tourism business, which was devastated by the bloody campaign by the Islamic radicals.

More than 390 people were killed in the violence, including police, minority Coptic Christians and several foreign tourists. But in the last four months, police have largely succeeded in reducing the radical campaign to clashes in the militants' stronghold in southern Egypt.

Several Islamic groups have called for cancelling the population conference, a meeting sponsored by the United Nations every 10 years. Among opponents are the powerful Muslim Brotherhood and the Al Azhar University, the major spiritual guide for most Muslims.

However, Egypt's chief Islamic cleric, Sheikh Mohammed Sayed Tantawi, has urged Muslims to attend at the conference to advocate parts of the draft they favour and oppose objectionable sections.

Sheikh Tantawi issued a statement Tuesday praising the draft's call for fighting poverty and aids as well as its concentration on the rights of women and children.

But he rejected the idea of giving family planning advice to non-married couples and said some sections on women's equality were at odds with the Koran.

Egypt's police put on high alert for population conference

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has put its police on "maximum alert" ahead of the U.N. population conference that opens in Cairo on Sept. 5 but already is raising controversy.

Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfay noted in announcing the alert that police could put down any "terrorist" activity, referring to the government's 2½-year battle with extremists trying to overthrow the government and impose Islamic rule.

"Egypt has overcome all attempts which aimed at threatening its security and stability," the minister said.

But he also warned demonstrations by those involved in the conference would be blocked. He was responding to Egyptian newspaper reports claiming some non-governmental groups planned public demonstrations defending homosexual rights.

The conference, which is expected to draw 15,000 people from around the world, had raised the ire of some Muslim institutions who claim its draft report advocates abortion, premarital sex and homosexuality.

The goal of the meeting, officially the U.N. Conference on Population and Development, is to set guidelines to slow burgeoning population growth and foster development over the next 20 years.

Conference organisers have pointed out the report is only a draft and even when it is adopted, no country will be bound to follow its recommendations.

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Hosni Mubarak

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fugitive Turkish footballer returns home

ANKARA (R) — Fugitive former Turkish soccer star Tanju Colak returned home under police escort and in tears on Tuesday to face more than four years in jail for knowingly buying a smuggled Mercedes car. Mr. Colak, one of Turkey's top sportsman in the 1980s and winner of the European Golden Boot award in 1988, fled to the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia on July 26 after his appeal against the sentence failed. "He was flown in accompanied by 12 Interpol police," Reuters photographer Fatih Saribas reported from Istanbul airport. "He was crying, his face was bright red." His mother and small son, a group of 50 fans, ex-teammate Ridvan Dilmen and other soccer players turned up to meet him. "Tanju is ours — no one can take him," chanted his fans. He greeted them with a sad wave. A criminal court convicted Mr. Colak and sentenced him to four years and eight months in jail. He has been detained in Macedonia since Aug. 10 after Turkey sought his extradition. He left for Skopje two days before an Istanbul prosecutor ordered his detention. He said he went to prepare to play for a rest of the world team against Russia. Russia withdrew his invitation to play after Ankara requested his extradition.

UNESCO blasts Algerian anti-school threats

PARIS (R) — UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor, on Tuesday condemned threats by Algerian Islamic militants against students, teachers and schools. In a statement issued by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation shortly after an Algerian university teacher was shot dead, Mr. Mayor said: "This new wave of terror and intolerance that is victimising teachers and students and crippling schools in Algeria must be stopped. Only education can build a culture of peace and tolerance in which differences are viewed as a source of richness and not as a threat to one's values and existence." Earlier on Tuesday, Rabah Stambouli a 65-year-old Algerian university teacher, was killed in a daylight attack outside his home in the town of Tizi Ouzou, according to Algeria's official news agency APS. A week earlier, Islamic militants set fire to at least eight schools in Algeria. The militants have warned students and teachers to stay away from centres of education.

Cyprus backs Lebanon in confrontation

BEIRUT (AP) — Cyprus' foreign minister Tuesday invited Lebanese leaders to visit the East Mediterranean island and expressed his country's support for Lebanon in its confrontation with Israel. Aloysios Michaelides met separately with President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and Information Minister Michel Samaha. Mr. Michaelides said he relayed a message from Cypriot president Glafos Clerides to Mr. Hrawi on boosting economic and political relations. "There are a lot of things in common between Lebanon and Cyprus and we can do a lot to benefit our people," said Mr. Michaelides. Asked about Israeli attacks on South Lebanon, Mr. Michaelides said: "We support the peace process. We support Lebanon and we're against acts that obstruct the peace process." Mr. Michaelides, in Lebanon since Sunday, said he invited Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Hariri to visit Cyprus, Lebanon's neighbour 240 kilometres across the Eastern Mediterranean. The island was a refuge for many Lebanese during the 1975-1990 civil war. Many Lebanese used Cypriot sea and airports to travel in and out of the country during the fighting. Mr. Michaelides toured the American University of Beirut, where he studied in the 1960s, and met with its acting president, Samir Makdissi. Mr. Michaelides was due to leave for home Wednesday.

Turkey to demand visas for Americans

ANKARA (AP) — American citizens will be required to obtain entry visas for Turkey beginning in October, officials said Tuesday. Officials at the Foreign Ministry told the Associated Press that the change was made because the United States recently began charging Turks 660,000 lire (about \$20) for U.S. visas. Previously, the visas were free. U.S. citizens have been allowed to enter Turkey without a visa. After Oct. 1, Americans will have to obtain a visa in advance and pay \$20, the ministry announced. The change comes as Turkey struggles to prop up its sinking tourism industry following bomb attacks by Kurdish separatists. Earlier this month, the United States froze 10 per cent of its \$364.5 million in military aid to Turkey pending a report on alleged human rights abuses by the Turkish military.

Two Spanish tourists killed in Morocco

MARRAKESH (AFP) — Two Spanish tourists were killed and another seriously wounded Wednesday when unidentified men burst into a four-star hotel here and opened fire with machineguns, officials said. Police named the dead as Salvador Torres Turrel, a 43-year-old native of Barcelona, and Antonia Garcia, a mother of two from Estepona, near Malaga, aged about 40. Another woman, Dori Ocania Marin of San Pedro, was seriously wounded in the leg. A receptionist at the Atlas-Asni Hotel was also beaten up by the gangsters who escaped after taking a woman hostage in her own car. The hotel is located near a building where a GATT conference took place in April. Police said the woman hostage was released 15 minutes later unharmed. Eyewitnesses said the gunmen, wearing balaclavas, burst into the hotel lobby and opened fire at tourists assembled there, mainly Spaniards and Italians. The trio headed for the cashier, tried unsuccessfully to overpower him and fled with two envelopes containing an undisclosed amount of money. A Moroccan eyewitness, Assia Laraki, said she heard the trio speak Arab with an Algerian accent as well as Italian and French. Hotel staff confirmed this.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Un Secle De Chanoines
18:30 Des Plantes Et Des Hommes
18:30 News in French
18:45 Enquete Au Maroc
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:15 Basketball Galatasaray
19:15 News in Arabic
20:30 Heart of Courage
21:10 Murder She Wrote
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the Week

PRAYER TIMES
04:39 Fajr
06:01 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:38 Dhuhr
16:16 Asr
19:16 Maghrib
20:38 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Saidieh, Tel. 810740
Annunciation of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Sante Church Tel. 661757
Transfiguration Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 623543
American Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Epiphane Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 632526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 20 / 32
Aqaba 25 / 39
Dhahran 17 / 35
Jordan Valley 24 / 39
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 39 Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 19 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMBULANCE: Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710
Dr. Faysal Dabbas 791555
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 885446
Dr. Shihab Abu Zayid 757962
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamoon pharmacy 637650
Najib pharmacy 847632

AMBULANCE: Dr. Mohammad Al Khattabi 273099
Alkops pharmacy 985417

ZARQA: Dr. Tarq Al Hijawi 985445
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 771111
Jordan Television 771111
Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS
AMBULANCE: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Ann 6442816
Alkheh Maternity, J. Ann 6442816
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 6641714
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843945
Al-Mustashir Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mahajra 7771013
Al-Badr, J. Amman 7511126
Army, Mar 87161015
Queen Alia Hospital 60224030
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA: Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital 674155
Rm Sina Hospital (09)900560
Al Hitan Modern Hospital (09)986732
Rm Al Nafes Hospital (09)909990
Princess Basma Hospital (02)223535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)222225
Rm Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:00 New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (add) (ME)
11:00 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:15 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:15 Al Ain (RJ)
19:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:35 Athens (RJ)
21:00 Rome, Beirut (add) (RJ)
21:15 Tunis (add) (RJ)
23:25 Rome, Beirut (add) (RJ)
06:30 Larnaca (RJ)
05:50 Dubai (add) (RJ)

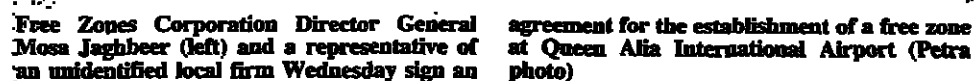
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:45 Beirut (add) (ME)
11:00 Sharjah (AH)
12:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)
12:35 Munich (DE)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
21:15 Cairo (MS)
21:30 Beirut (ME)
21:30 Dubai (EK)
23:20 Istanbul (TK)
01:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ)

HAJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower prices in Sls per kg.
Apple 700 / 400
Banana 550
Bassam (Mukammal) 580
Cabbage 120 / 60
Carrot 370/250
Cauliflower 240 / 150
Cucumber (large) 220 / 150
Cucumbers (small) 450 / 300
Eggplant 180 / 100
Fig 450 / 350
Garlic 900/500
Grapes 280 / 200
Lemon 300 / 250
Marrow (large) 250 / 200
Marrow (small) 300 / 350
Mushrooms 130 / 60
Onion 1200 / 900
Orange 300 / 250
Olive (dry) 280 / 180
Sweet Melon 200 / 100
Pepper (hot) 220 / 160
Pepper (sweet) 300 / 200
Pumpkin 250 / 150
Pumpkin 700 / 270
Pumpkin 1000 / 700
Tomato 800 / 600
Watermelon 70 / 50

دليلك



AMMAN (Petra) — The Free Zones Corporation Wednesday signed an agreement with a local contracting firm to establish a free zone at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) at a cost of JD 500,000.

The proposed 10,000-square-metre free zone at the airport will include an administration building, in addition to storage and service areas.

The QAIA free zone will meet the primary needs of interested merchants and investors in view of the increase in the volume of merchandise arriving at the airport.

The corporation has received the approval of the Minister of Transport to increase the zone's area to 100,000 square metres in the future, with part of it allocated to small, environmentally-safe industries, and another part to attract technologically-advanced industries.

Corporation Director General Musa Al Jaghbeer said the project will serve the transit merchants in the Kingdom through making available raw material and reducing shipment costs. This, he said, will contribute to developing the transit industry, reduce bureaucratic procedures related to transit and enhance the cargo ability of the Royal Jordanian (RJ).

Mr. Jaghbeer said the corporation is currently studying the prospect of establishing other free zones in various parts of the Kingdom.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday delegated his private advisor Mohammad Al Saqqaf to attend the funeral of Nabeel Hamaneh and to offer condolences to the family of the deceased.

TCC warns late payers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has asked all subscribers to pay their bills as soon as possible and threatened to disconnect telephone lines of subscribers in default as of next Saturday.

Planning Minister Hisham Khatib (centre) and German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reimers (second from left) Wednesday sign an agreement on German government support of a waste water project (Petra photo)

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Germany Wednesday signed an agreement whereby the German government will extend through the German Construction Bank a DM59.5 million soft loan to finance a project to transfer waste water from Amman to the Khirbat Samra treatment plant.

The agreement also stipulates that DM 500,000 will be extended in the form of a grant to finance procedures supporting the project, provided that if this sum was not used it would be converted into a loan.

The project entails extending a 38-kilometer pipeline from the El Fehazi waste water treatment station to the Khirbat Samra station to avoid flooding at the former.

The two sides also signed memorandums amending earlier documents signed in February on supporting a project on the use of renewable energy resources carried out by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in cooperation with the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ).

The amended memorandums raised the German government's contribution from DM 850,000 to DM 935,000 to cover the costs of experts and secure the needed facilities for the project.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Jordanian government by Planning Minister Hisham Khatib and on behalf of the German government by Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners.

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Institute of Diplomacy is planning to organise an international conference which will explore "the human dimensions of the peace process in the Middle East," according to the institute's president, Mazen Afnouti.

The conference is scheduled to be held in Amman in November, and will take place under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Dr. Armouti told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

The Institute of Diplomacy is newly-established, having been launched by the Crown Prince just this month to serve as a training and information centre for diplomats and institutions in Jordan which deal in international arenas and foreign affairs on a regular basis.

Of course, the peace process and its ramifications are



of basic concern to the institute. It is a pivotal issue," said Dr. Armouti.

He emphasised, however, that beyond the November conference, it was too early to tell in what ways the new institute might be involved with the peace issue.

Also underway, he said, were plans for a conference on Jordanian-Japanese relations to be held in Tokyo next

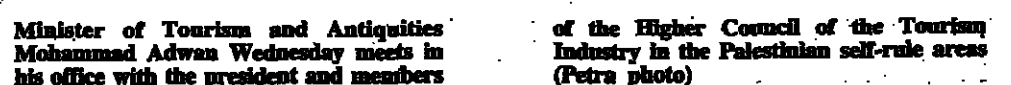
AMMAN (Petra)— Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan Wednesday said Jordan will not sign any agreement on tourism with Israel before coordinating with the Palestinians.

At a meeting in his office with the president and members of the Higher Council of the Tourism Industry in the

President of the West Bank Hotels Society Marwan Al Amad said he was pleased with the talks in Amman and stressed that the Palestinians were keen to work on integrating the tourism sectors in Jordan and Palestine.

Dr. Adwan said his ministry was ready to help the Palestinians in all areas of tourism, especially that they were currently building their national institutions in the West Bank.

"You represent a good group of tourism institutions which have a great responsibility in developing the tourism industry on both sides (of the Jordanian West Bank and the West Bank) and religious sites in Jordan and the West Bank to be marketed and distributed jointly in Arab and Islamic countries."



Project seeks to make optimal use of water, agricultural land

KARAK (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif Wednesday said the agricultural sector in Jordan represents about 10 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and that agricultural

exports account for 15 per cent of all of Jordan's exports.

Mr. Ben Tarif war speak-

The minister said Jordan's exports of agricultural produce equal the value of its imports of food supplies.

ing at a meeting held in wadi Karak area and attended by the ministers of Public Works and Housing and Water and Irrigation, as well as Karak Governor Khalaf Mahasneh.

397 pesticide brands registered until 1994

AMMAN, (Petra). — The number of pesticide brands registered at the Ministry of Agriculture until the beginning of 1994 totalled 397, and

The sources said that the

In addition, the sources said, a committee comprising representatives of the ministries of Agriculture and Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the

The sources said that the ministry's pesticides section is responsible for registering imported and locally-produced pesticides and grants licenses to shops selling them.

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan-Japanese cooperation in economic fields was the main issue under discussion Wednesday in a meeting held between Amman Chamber of Industry President Khaldoun Abu Hassan and a visiting delegation representing the Japanese Cooperation

Mr. Abu Hassan reviewed with the visiting team the prospects of launching joint Jordanian-Japanese ventures.

He said the first Jordanian-Japanese joint venture was a \$300 million fertiliser plant project.

The meeting the prospect of modernising and developing the transportation system in the Kingdom and electricity and telephone links between the countries of the region. The Jordanian side sug-

FILM

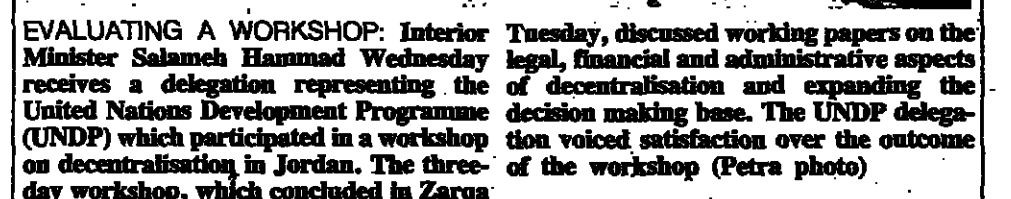
☆ Film entitled "Splash!" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

☆ Children's play entitled "Long Live the Dead Sea" at the Royal Cultural Centre on 6:00 p.m.

☆ Performance of Circassian dances at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday at 8:00 p.m.

☆ Festival of artistic works (including songs, plays, and an exhibition of various commodities) at the open theatre, the Royal Cultural Centre (5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.).

- ☆ Exhibition of paintings by Fahmi Qayssi at Ab'ad Art Gallery (Tel. 819861).
- ☆ Clothing and fashion industry exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 847113).



REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF QUALIFICATIONS

Sigma One Corporation in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina USA invites qualified Jordanian refrigeration and construction contractors to submit a **statement of qualifications** to be considered for a subcontract to design, construct and install the necessary facilities and equipment for a refrigerated "Cold Storage Facility" for fresh fruits and vegetables in transit to export markets. The facility will be located at **Queen Alia International Airport in Amman**. Only qualified Jordanian and United States firms that submit qualification statements in response to this advertisement will be eligible to receive copies of the request for proposals, statements of qualifications must be received at P.O. Box 12836, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA. 27709 no later than **SEP 19, 1994**.

Particulars: The facility is to serve as transient storage for fresh fruits and vegetables to be shipped by air from QAIA. Physical dimensions : approximately 2500 cubic meters of refrigerated space on 500 square meters of surface area, Must maintain inside temperature within 2-4 C. The facility must be designed for efficient throughput of air cargo pallets.

Contractor will be required to review and finalize preliminary designs and equipment specifications, and to submit a "not to exceed cost estimate for a "turn key " type contract. Source and origin of services, materials and equipment must be Jordan or the United States only. Only contractors deemed to be qualified on the basis of prior experience with similar facilities and equipment will be considered for receipt of the formal request for proposal. Final selection will be from a "short-list " of qualified firms, which will be required to demonstrate financial capability to undertake the contract on a cost reimbursement basis.

All interested firms should submit a **complete statement of qualifications** including names and addresses of references for prior performance on similar projects, General brochures or advertising materials will **not** be adequate without information on specific information regarding experience with facilities and equipment for modern refrigerated storage for fresh perishable products.

Please note that U.S. Government procurement policies will be strictly observed, and that this advertisement does not obligate Sigma One Corporation to issue a request for proposal nor to select the contractor from the respondents to this advertisement. Selection of the contractor would be based on technical and costs considerations.

مکتبہ اعلیٰ اسلامیہ

Sharif's nuclear bomb claims spark anger in Islamabad, Delhi

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's declaration that Pakistan has a nuclear bomb brought an angry response from government leaders Wednesday and increased tension with India.

Mr. Sharif's claim was strongly denied by Pakistani ministers. In New Delhi, the government made no immediate comment, but opposition leaders called for India to make its own bomb.

The Pakistan government officially denied that it had an atomic bomb and Foreign Minister Ahmad Asif Ali accused Mr. Sharif of acting like an "Indian agent" by stating that Pakistan has a nuclear bomb.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "We have the technological capability but we have not taken a conscious decision not to use nuclear weapons." The spokesman reacted to the controversy caused by Mr. Sharif's declaration.

The foreign minister added in an interview with the Muslim newspaper that Mr. Sharif should not be making such controversial remarks because he is a former prime minister.

"Whatever Nawaz Sharif is saying lacks a sense of patriotism," he said. "Nawaz Sharif and his party are behaving like Indian agents."

"We do not possess nuclear weapons and we have no intention of making one," he stated.

Mr. Sharif, prime minister from 1990 to 1993, told a public rally at Neela Butt in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir Tuesday that both Pakistan

and India had nuclear bombs. He also warned India against launching a nuclear attack against Pakistan. The two countries have fought three wars since 1947, with Kashmir a particular bone of contention.

The independent Pakistan Press International (PPI) news agency quoted him as saying, "I confirm that Pakistan possesses an atom bomb."

Pakistan continually denies international suspicions that it has a bomb. But the Sharif accusations come at a bad time, as it has already been implicated in the recently discovered traffic of plutonium through Germany.

Western experts believe that even if Pakistan does not have a bomb, it could get one ready at very short notice and has only held back out of political or safety considerations.

A former chief of staff, Mirza Aslam Beg, said in May that Pakistan had the bomb since 1987 but that the United States had turned a blind eye up to 1990.

Washington wanted Islamabad as an ally in the Afghanistan War up to 1990, when military and technical assistance was suspended over the suspected nuclear programme.

The question is at the centre of an ongoing dispute between Mr. Sharif and his successor as prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, as both try to show that they are better able to cope with international pressure.

Ms. Bhutto announced a freeze on Pakistan's nuclear

programme last November in an attempt to appease the U.S. authorities. But she implied that Mr. Sharif was to blame, in an attempt to soothe public opinion that considers the programme a matter of national pride.

In India, Mr. Sharif's comments sparked an uproar in parliament, where ruling party and opposition MPs sought a government response.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vidya Charan Shukla said "considering the sensitive nature of the subject, I will have a word with the prime minister and the speaker before the matter can be discussed."

Mr. Sharif's admission "is an open challenge to India," said Chandrabjit Yadav, a centrist MP.

But a spokesman for the ruling Congress (I) Party said India would not go nuclear despite the Sharif revelations.

"We do not have a nuclear weapon and will not produce one," Congress spokesman Vithal Gadgil said here.

The country's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) demanded that India should go nuclear to counter threats from Pakistan.

India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, also says it does not have a bomb. In June, however, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said India would keep its nuclear options open.

At a press briefing in Islamabad, a Foreign Office spokesman said the government had not received an "authentic version" of Mr.

Sharif's statement. "This is a political statement by a politician and it must be seen in that perspective," the spokesman said, pointing out that the former prime minister did not make such a statement when he was in office.

He reiterated the official position that Islamabad had taken a "sovereign" decision not to make an atomic bomb although it had "acquired" the capability to do so during "the development of its peaceful nuclear programme."

In Vienna, the U.N. nuclear safeguards agency said Wednesday it was unable to comment on a report that Pakistan has the atom bomb because Islamabad does not allow inspections of its nuclear sites.

"We cannot comment either on the statement by the former prime minister or the denial by the government," International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) spokesman David Kyd said.

Pakistan, like India and Israel, has not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) or a safeguards agreement, allowing the IAEA to verify an inventory of a state's declared nuclear materials.

Pakistan, India and Israel are members of the IAEA. "They are three most notable absentees from the NPT structure and hence do not have comprehensive safeguards agreements with us permitting inspections of their nuclear facilities," Mr. Kyd added.



Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif addresses a public meeting at Neela Butt in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (AFP photo)

Albania seeks international mediation in crisis with Greece

TIRANA (AFP) — President Sali Berisha has called for international mediation after the long-running crisis between Greece and Albania took a sharp turn for the worse, raising fears of a new Balkan conflict, according to reports here Wednesday.

"We are proposing dialogue (with Athens) in the presence of a third party, whether it be the CSCE, the European Union president (currently Germany), the United States, or another country," Albanian newspapers quoted Mr. Berisha as saying after a meeting with a senior official from the Con-

ference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Max Van Der Stoep, the CSCE High Commissioner for Minorities.

On Tuesday, Albanian Ambassador in Washington Lubin Dija appealed to the United States and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization members to put diplomatic pressure on Greece to halt what he described as anti-Albanian provocation.

He spoke hours after Albania withdrew its ambassador from Greece and after a Greek pilot reportedly

dropped leaflets into Albania Sunday calling on the population to overthrow their government.

Tension between the two countries, which dates back to the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the century, has flared repeatedly in the past few years following the collapse of communism — mainly over ethnic and territorial issues.

Relations worsened dramatically when five Greek minority leaders went on trial here on Aug. 15 on charges of spying for Athens.

Kim Jong Il is "locked in power struggle"

TOKYO (AFP) — Kim Jong-Il is locked in a power struggle in Pyongyang to succeed his father, a senior Russian official said here Wednesday as a Western diplomat confirmed reports of a leaflet protest in the North Korean capital.

Yevgeni Bazhanov, deputy head of the Academy of Foreign Affairs in the Russian Foreign Ministry, said the North Korean regime would fall even if it began economic reforms, Kyodo News Service reported.

Mr. Bazhanov, who based his power struggle analysis on reports from North Koreans living in Russia, said there was opposition in the Stalinist North to Kim Jong-Il.

He added that no matter which road North Korea took, its Communist government would fall as Eastern Europe's Communist regimes crumbled.

Kim Il-Sung groomed his son for many years to take over. He has been hailed as a "Great leader, but since the elder Kim died on July 8, speculation has grown at the failure of Kim Jong-Il to be officially named North Korean president and party secretary general.

However, Russian sources added that Pyongyang had seemed exceptionally calm in

recent days with little evidence of a leadership struggle.

Reports of leaflets being left in the diplomatic compound in Pyongyang were the first sign of dissidence. And a German embassy spokesman in Tokyo confirmed Wednesday that "leaflets were thrown" in the grounds of several embassies.

But he added that the two German diplomats stationed in Pyongyang had not seen the leaflets and did not know what they contained. The spokesman refused to say in which embassy grounds the tracts were found.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency, quoting diplomatic sources, said tracts calling for the overthrow of Kim Jong-Il were left at the tightly guarded embassies.

Diplomats here said the situation in the North was difficult to gauge, adding that information from the South should be treated with caution.

But Sunday, South Korean official monitors said Pyongyang radio reports had referred to "falling prey to treacherous conspirators... if we fail to solve the succession problem."

And Yonhap's report said the timing of the broadcast would indicate that it had

been in response to the leaflet drop.

And the power struggle indications have been accompanied by speculation about Mr. Kim's health.

There have been two references indicating that the younger Kim might be suffering serious health problems.

The first was by the North Korean News Agency (KCNA), talking about Mr. Kim's "gauntness." A Japanese news agency account of him declining a health trip to China.

But on Wednesday, the official North Korean Worker's Daily newspaper wrote of the "The indestructible, organic link between the leader and the people."

Quoted by the Korean Central News Agency, monitoring here, it added that "no force on earth can break this integral whole in which the great leader and the people share the destiny all the time."

"The dear leader Comrade Kim Jong-Il who has fully inherited all the noble virtues and qualities of the fatherly leader (Kim Il-Sung) is the great leader who is leading the Korean people to victory, firmly standing at the head of the party, the state and the revolutionary armed forces," it said.

Zedillo vows government for all in Mexico; victory is challenged

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Faced with the weakest mandate of any Mexican leader in modern times, President-elect Ernesto Zedillo reached out to opponents Tuesday to build a "government for everyone."

"We are facing a historic opportunity to create a government for the common good in which the interests of all are recognised," said Mr. Zedillo, who won election Sunday to a six-year term.

With 88.5 per cent of the

ballots counted, Mr. Zedillo had 50 per cent of the vote, an insurmountable lead over his rivals, but the lowest percentage ever for a ruling party presidential candidate.

But the ruling party appeared headed for its usual smashing victory in legislative races. Television Azteca said its survey showed the PRI winning in 279 of 300 congressional races and in nearly all the 64 Senate races.

Another 200 Congress and 32 Senate seats will be divided by parties' vote share.

The Sunday vote was widely seen as a watershed in Mexican politics, long dominated by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has held the presidency since its founding in 1929.

A rebellion in the southern state of Chiapas, the assassination of the PRI's previous presidential candidate, discontent over electoral corruption and calls for greater democracy had shaken the PRI's 65-year grip on power.

Rebels: Tighter sanctions will halt Angola talks

LISBON (R) — The Angolan rebel movement UNITA threatened Wednesday to withdraw from peace talks with the government if the U.N. Security Council imposed additional sanctions against it.

The warning was issued in a communiqué released by UNITA's representatives abroad after a two-day meeting in Paris with General Paulo Lukumba Gato, a special envoy of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi.

The eventual application of a second package of sanctions would lead to an alteration of the present political framework, and the de facto annulment of Bicesse and the negotiating process in Lusaka, the UNITA envoys said.

Mr. Ramos welcomed Mr. Murayama's remarks as an expression "of remorse and apology", the officials said.

There was no mention of direct compensation for the surviving so-called "comfort women."

Japanese officials accompanying Mr. Murayama have said survivors must pursue any compensation claims through Japan's courts as the government believes it has no legal obligations to them.

The officials said Mr. Murayama had also promised that young Japanese would learn the truth about their country's wartime past.

"The Murayama government is going to take some measures to deliver the true historical facts to the younger Japanese people," said Kishichiro Amai, deputy press secretary at the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Philippine Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino said: "The prime minister noted that next year would be the 50th anniversary of the end of the

Japan promises positive measures on comfort women

MANILA (R) — Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama promised the Philippines Wednesday that Japan would take positive steps to show its remorse for the Asian women whom Japanese troops used as sex slaves in World War II.

These would include the setting up of vocational training centres for Filipino women in general, Philippine and Japanese officials told reporters.

They were speaking after talks between the Socialist prime minister, here at the start of a four-nation Asian tour, and Philippine President Fidel Ramos.

Mr. Ramos welcomed Mr. Murayama's remarks as an expression "of remorse and apology", the officials said.

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Japanese Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama toast champagne glasses during a state banquet (left) and Philippine President Fidel Ramos greet reception at Malacanang Palace (AFP)

Pacific War. He said it was important for Japan to face the past with respect to the countries of Asia, including the Philippines.

Japanese troops occupied much of Asia during World War II, committing widespread atrocities against opposing armies and civilian populations.

Japanese school textbooks, however, gloss over this aspect of history and have in the past portrayed the imperial army as waging a war of liberation on behalf of Asian peoples colonised by Western powers.

Mr. Murayama also said Japan would assist with historical research projects in Asia "to facilitate Japan's facing history squarely."

About 30 former "comfort women," demonstrated near Malacanang Presidential Palace where Mr. Ramos and

Mr. Murayama met, waving placards demanding individual compensation.

"Japanese government good in words but not in deed," said one placard.

"We are old. We do not need the women's centre. Give us individual compensation," one of the women told reporters.

About 200,000 comfort women, most of them Koreans but also Filipinos, Chinese, Taiwanese, Indonesians and Dutch, were forcibly recruited by the imperial army during the war to provide sex for their troops.

The Japanese government repeatedly denied their existence until historians unearthed official documents linking the government to the practice.

Dozens of children born to Filipino mothers and abandoned by their Japanese

'Polanski should be allowed to return to U.S.'

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Filmmaker Roman Polanski should be allowed to return to the United States without going to prison for having unlawful sex with a girl 17 years ago, the victim in the case said. Lawrence Silver, lawyer for the woman who was 13 years old at the time of the 1977 incident, said the criminal charges should be dismissed. "It's in everyone's best interest that this case be put to rest and allow the parties to live their lives as normally as possible," said a statement released through the lawyer.

But Deputy District Attorney Roger Gunson said Monday that authorities were not prepared to drop charges of unlawful intercourse with a minor against Polanski, who fled to Europe while he was awaiting sentencing in 1978.

"Mr. Polanski will have to surrender to the court and let the court decide what should happen in the case," Mr. Gunson said. Mr. Silver said the woman, who lives in Hawaii, had made no offer to assist in dropping the criminal charges in exchange for settling a civil suit recently for \$225,000. The 61-year-old Polanski lives in Paris with his wife, actress Emmanuelle Beigner, and continues to produce occasional films. His films include Chinatown and Rosemary's Baby.

Relations worsened dramatically when five Greek minority leaders went on trial here on Aug. 15 on charges of spying for Athens.

There have been two references indicating that the younger Kim might be suffering serious health problems.

The first was by the North Korean News Agency (KCNA), talking about Mr. Kim's "gauntness." A Japanese news agency account of him declining a health trip to China.

But on Wednesday, the official North Korean Worker's Daily newspaper wrote of the "The indestructible, organic link between the leader and the people."

Quoted by the Korean Central News Agency, monitoring here, it added that "no force on earth can break this integral whole in which the great leader and the people share the destiny all the time."

"The dear leader Comrade Kim Jong-Il who has fully inherited all the noble virtues and qualities of the fatherly leader (Kim Il-Sung) is the great leader who is leading the Korean people to victory, firmly standing at the head of the party, the state and the revolutionary armed forces," it said.

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Simpson lawyers accuse prosecutors of trying to 'burn up' DNA evidence

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Defence lawyers accused prosecutors of trying to "burn up" all the DNA evidence in the O.J. Simpson case by over-testing it so there won't be any left for Simpson's team to examine.

Attorney Gerald Uelman said prosecutors acted in bad faith by failing to immediately disclose the existence of some blood samples and are now trying to use up the evidence through over-testing.

"Your honour needs to consider if what is at issue here is a sophisticated game plan to burn up the evidence before we can do independent tests," Mr. Uelman told Superior Court Judge Lance Ito.

But Deputy District Attorney Lisa Kahn urged the judge to deny the defence request for access to blood

samples until all prosecution tests are completed.

Judge Ito wrapped up the two-day hearing saying he would rule Friday.

Simpson, 47, has pleaded innocent to the June 12 killings of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. The former football hero's trial is scheduled to start on Sept. 19.

Also Tuesday, KNBC-TV reported that hair found in a knit cap at the murder scene is consistent with hair police removed from Simpson's head. The television station said FBI forensic technicians in Washington compared the samples under a microscope.

The KNBC-TV report came a day after the prosecution revealed that DNA test results showed Simpson's blood has the same genetic makeup as blood found at the

murder scene.

Simpson's lawyers attacked the reliability of the DNA evidence Tuesday, suggesting police bungled blood collection, mislabeled a sample and assigned inexperienced technicians to the case.

Under defence questioning, one police criminalist acknowledged mislabeling a blood sample and another said she was still a trainee when she collected evidence.

Testimony by the trainee, Andrea Mazzola, suggested she began collecting blood samples from Simpson's driveway hours before a search warrant was issued.

She said she arrived at 7 a.m. on June 13, met with detectives who pointed out items of interest and "proceeded to have them photographed and collected." The search warrant was issued at 10:45 a.m.

Polanski should be allowed to return to U.S.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A filmmaker Roman Polanski should be allowed to return to the United States, a federal judge ruled Tuesday. The judge said that Polanski, who was convicted of sexual offenses in 1977, should be allowed to return to the U.S. after serving his sentence in France. The judge said that Polanski's conviction was "final" and that he should be allowed to return to the U.S. after serving his sentence in France.



Women carry refuse to a dump in Lagos that has not been emptied for the eight weeks that people have been on strike

in Nigeria. The country reportedly has almost no fuel and most of Lagos has come to a stop (AFP photo)

Tough measures fail to end Nigeria fuel crisis

LAGOS (AFP) — Lagos remained gripped by severe fuel shortages Wednesday despite strong measures by the junta to break the back of the crippling eight-week oil industry strike aimed at bringing an end to military rule.

Minister Don Etebet announced in a morning radio broadcast that the government would provide security for tanker drivers unwilling to take supplies to fuel stations for fear of attack.

Etebet met executives of the eight major oil marketing companies and later told the pro-government Daily Times that government policy was to ensure the supply of fuel to the general public in priority over industry, the paper reported Wednesday.

But most filling stations in the city remained empty and chaotic queues of traffic formed in front of the few that managed to obtain supplies, with motorists jostling for place, residents said.

Banks had resumed operations after a month-long strike, but clients said they were still providing only a skeleton service despite Monday's ultimatum from the junta to restore normal services by Wednesday or lose their licenses.

Most were opening for power than three hours a day,

witnesses said, amid sustained political tension.

Unidentified assailants stoned the minister of works and housing, Lateef Jakande, as he was attending a funeral ceremony in central Lagos Tuesday, press reports said Wednesday.

Mr. Jakande was formerly a close associate and supporter of Moshood Abiola, the jailed opposition leader to whom the striking oil unions and pro-democracy activists want General Sani Abacha's junta to hand power.

Gen. Abiola was arrested and put on trial for treason after he declared himself head of state in June, the first anniversary of a presidential election staged and then voided by the military last year.

In the past week, the regime has dissolved the leadership of the two powerful oil and gas industry unions and threatened workers with the sack if they fail to resume their jobs immediately.

It also called on willing retired employees in the sector to come forward and take over the work, in a bid to restore normalcy in supplies of petroleum products which are both domestically vital and the country's main export earner.

The junta has appointed civilian administrators to take

over the running of the unions and arrested the secretary-general of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), Ahmad Jalingo, judicial sources said.

The court will on that date hear a challenge by NUPENG that the dissolution of its leadership was "illegal," the judge ruled.

Consideration of the case of the other union, PENGASAN, was held over for procedural reasons.

Oil industry sources said the action of workers made delivering petrol an almost impossible task.

Three of the nation's four refineries, damaged or shut as a result of the strike, will take a few weeks to put back into operation despite the oil minister's assurances that the situation would return to normal by next week, they added.

Meanwhile Mr. Abiola marked his 57th birthday Wednesday with a message calling for "national reconciliation."

The Muslim millionaire businessman, presumed to have won a presidential poll held and then annulled by the military junta in June last year, called for the establishment of democracy in his message published by the press.

"I regret the harrowing experiences and deprivation we are all currently passing through before the glorious dawn of a new Nigeria where true freedom, genuine democracy, respect for the rule of law and dignity of man shall reign supreme across the length and breadth of our fatherland," he said.

"I hold no malice against anyone," declared Mr. Abiola, according to the pro-government Daily Times, which reported that he said he had forgiven "all who might think that they have offended me while extending my hands of fellowship in the true spirit of national reconciliation."

In the Vanguard newspaper, Isaka Adetunji Adelelo, former civilian governor of Ogun state to the southwest, called the politician, who has broad support in Lagos and the southwestern Yoruba regions, the "Moses of our time."

Several newspapers printed pages of birthday messages and tributes to Mr. Abiola, whom the military has refused to release.

His trial is due to resume in the federal capital Abuja on Aug. 29.

The government has arrested a top oil union leader and other pro-democracy activists.

Former Rwandan government troops want to join new army

KIGALI (R) — Troops from the former Rwandan government army are among hundreds of Hutus returning from the U.N.-protected "safe zone" in the southwest and some even say they want to join the country's new Tutsi-dominated army.

U.N. Ghanaian peacekeepers said some 500 people, including one truck of soldiers, passed through their checkpoint on Tuesday on their way to government-controlled Rwanda.

The Ghanaians took control of the safe zone after the withdrawal of French forces on Aug. 22.

The Ghanaians thoroughly searched the soldiers, most still in their ragged uniforms, before letting them travel on to the next checkpoint manned by Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) troops.

"This lot turned up in a truck and said they wanted to join up. We have been checking them for weapons and we will send them on their way," a Ghanaian officer told reporters.

None of the soldiers feared detention or punishment at the hands of the RPF, the officer added. The RPF says the former Hutu government orchestrated a campaign to wipe out minority Tutsis.

"We have been looking after the security of the refugees," former Corporal Ferdinand Nkurikiyumukiza, a returnee, told Reuters.

"Now it is time to join their (the RPF) army so we can continue to serve our country. They have said we are welcome," he added.

Col. Nkurikiyumukiza served for four years in the Paracommando Regiment but became disenchanted with his leaders after April's massacres in which an estimated 500,000 people, mainly Tutsis and Hutu government opponents, were killed.

"The (former) government are liars. Everything we have been told is untrue. The RPF are not killers, they are soldiers like us only they are better."

The Tutsi-dominated RPF has pledged not to seek revenge for massacres of Tutsis and moderate Hutus blamed on the former, defeated Hutu government.

The RPF instead wants an international tribunal set up to try those suspected to have taken part in the killings.

A second U.N. checkpoint at Kibizi in the centre of the safe zone reported negligible movement west towards Zaire and increasing numbers returning from Cyanguru to their homes.

U.N. officials were optimistic that a third refugee



Thousands of Rwandan refugees have settled after they have crossed the border into Zaire (AFP photo)

tragedy — following Benako in Tanzania and Goma in Zaire — had been avoided in Bukavu where only 40,000 have crossed.

The U.N. military spokesman, Major Jean-Guy Plante, told reporters: "Slowly but surely the signs are that what we, UNAMIR (the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda), the NGOs (non-governmental aid organisations) and the (U.N. aid agencies), have put in place is working."

"There is still a long way to go but, if the situation remains calm as now, then things are looking up."

The final death toll in the bloodbath to Rwanda could be more than one million, a U.N. official said Wednesday.

Charles Petrie, deputy coordinator of the U.N. Rwanda Emergency Office (UNREO) told Reuters: "I don't think one million would be an exaggerated figure."

Rwanda's new Tutsi-dominated army had committed retributive killings in parts of the country but ministers promise to clamp down, the U.N.'s special envoy said Wednesday.

Ambassador Shahyar Khan told a news conference in the Kenyan capital Nairobi that the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) government had detained 60 of its troops suspected of having taken part in killings.

"It is not a general pattern. It is not a terror campaign but there have been occasions of retributive killings," Mr. Khan said.

Mr. Khan's statement comes four days after a group of relief agencies said it had uncovered evidence that RPF fighters had massacred Hutu refugees returning home.

The group, which included the Dutch disaster relief agency Novib, two Zairean groups and a Rwandan collective, has drawn up a report

based on interviews with four wounded Rwandans who say they survived mass executions.

The witnesses said they had observed the deaths of hundreds of men, women and children systematically hacked to death by RPF fighters operating in the Virungu Wildlife Park separating northwest Rwanda from Zaire.

Mr. Khan's statement is certain to undermine efforts by the Kigali government to halt the continuing exodus of tens of thousands of Hutu refugees into Zaire where they have wound up in dismal, disease-ridden camps.

Mr. Khan said U.N. officials had compiled a report on the killings and submitted it to various agencies involved in investigating massacres of which erupted in Rwanda after the April 6 killing of military strongman Juvenal Habyarimana.

Sebastopol unlikely to join Russia — Yeltsin aide

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Ukrainian port of Sebastopol is unlikely to become part of Russia despite a controversial vote by the city's council, a key adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin said here Wednesday.

Russia's Black Sea Fleet has been based in Sebastopol since the days of the former Soviet Union.

Delicate negotiations are currently underway between Kiev and Moscow over who now owns it following Ukraine's declaration of independence in 1991.

Vice-president of the presidential policy studies unit, Mark Orlov, said Tuesday's vote by Sebastopol City Council "had no legal value."

Russia recognised frontiers within the Commonwealth of

Independent States (CIS) could not be altered said Mr. Orlov, adding Moscow respected the territorial integrity of all CIS member states.

The presidential advisor said Russia "wanted to resolve the question of access for the Black Sea Fleet in the best fashion possible." Moscow was determined to solve the problem by negotiation, he continued.

Sebastopol City Council's vote followed what was described as a "covert referendum" taken on June 26, the same day as Ukraine's presidential election, when 89 per cent of the city voted in favour of "maintaining Sebastopol's status as the main base for the Russian fleet in the Black Sea," the council said.

The Sebastopol decision received a frosty response in Kiev Tuesday.

Piotr Lelik, an adviser to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, rejected the request which he said was an attempt to "torpedo" the current fleet ownership negotiations.

Mr. Kuchma has "no intention of taking radical measures which would lead to a suspension of the negotiations," Mr. Lelik said.

Ukraine marks the third anniversary of its proclamation of independence Wednesday in a sombre mood, its new leader determined to show that he means business about changing people's miserable lives.

But President Leonid Kuchma, elected last month, took a back seat as the

celebrations got under way. He sat in silence during a ceremony Tuesday evening as the country's second political figure — Socialist Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz — made a blatantly political speech on the country's future.

Even U.S. President Bill Clinton took a more prominent place, appearing on the main television news with a message of congratulations. Mr. Kuchma was shown only presenting state awards.

Television also repeatedly showed footage of the ecstatic scenes in the Kiev parliament after the 1991 proclamation of independence — in the aftermath of the failed hardline Kremlin coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

2 arrested in uranium theft from Russian site

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian authorities have arrested two people caught stealing 9.5 kilograms of uranium from the Arzamas-16 secret nuclear site in the Urals, officials said Wednesday.

The two were detained Sunday by agents of the federal counterintelligence service in a joint operation with the Interior Ministry and security officials at the site, an Interior Ministry spokesman told AFP.

The spokesman, Alexei Patrenko, said the uranium-238 was confiscated and an investigation into the theft was opened.

ITAR-TASS news agency described the suspects as "unemployed criminals" but gave no further details on their identities.

A chief component of nuclear weapons is uranium-235. ITAR-TASS quoted Russian experts as saying that the uranium-238 seized after the arrests was an isotope used only in the production of atomic energy and had no military use.

The experts from the firm Resenergoatom also noted that uranium-238 is traded openly by specialists organisations and sells in Russia for between \$100 and \$200 per kilogramme in Russia. The Arzamas-16 site is a closed nuclear research and

development centre in the Urals believed by Western experts to produce nuclear products for both civilians and military use.

The announcement of the arrests came a day after experts at Russia's leading nuclear research institute warned that, contrary to official statements, theft of nuclear materials was possible in Russia due to inadequate security systems.

It also came after top Russian and German intelligence chiefs agreed to step up cooperation to prevent international smuggling of weapons-grade nuclear materials.

German customs agents seized 350 grammes of weapons-grade plutonium in Munich on Aug. 10 from passengers travelling aboard a regular Lufthansa flight from Moscow.

It was the third of four seizures in Germany of nuclear substances since May and Western experts have strongly suggested that at least some of the materials seized in Germany originated in Russia.

Russia had denied this and accused the West of orchestrating a propaganda campaign designed to gain control over Russian nuclear production.

At a news conference Tuesday, experts at the Kur-

chatovski Institute, Russia's most prestigious atomic research centre near central Moscow, rejected official assertions that nuclear smuggling from Russia was not possible.

"As people who work in science we understand that 'absoluteness' never occurs," Nikolai Ponomarev-Stepnoi, the institute's vice-president, said.

"We believed that the system of monitoring and registering nuclear materials must be improved" in Russia, he added.

Two other top experts from the institute present at the news conference, Andrei Gagarinaki and Nikolai Bondaryev, also signed "flaws" in Russia's systems of accounting and controlling nuclear substances.

In addition to physical shortcomings, the issue of security at Russia's civilian and military nuclear installations is also fraught with political and economic difficulties.

A scientist at the institution told AFP Tuesday that experts there were invited to attend the weekend talks between the top German and Russian intelligence officials who discussed nuclear smuggling.

The best nuclear experts

in Russia are here... that is a fact," said the scientist who asked not to be named.

Mr. Ponomarev-Stepnoi also noted that the institute was close to signing contracts with a number of foreign firms specialising in nuclear safety, including a company based at the U.S. nuclear research centre at Los Alamos.

The institute has been at odds with the Ministry of Atomic Energy on a number of nuclear policy issues in recent years.

It has notably been opposed by the ministry in calls for the closure of first-generation civilian reactors like those at the Chernobyl plant in Ukraine that are still in use in Russia.

Meanwhile Germany and Russia have agreed to increase control at airports and on land routes in an attempt to curb trafficking in radioactive materials, German secret service coordinator Bernd Schmidbauer said Wednesday.

The two nations agreed to the increased controls to "close the door on the theft and transport of this material," Mr. Schmidbauer said on the German information television station NTV.

He did not specify where exactly the new controls would be placed.

Clinton considers easing rules on Cubans

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton is considering changes to make it easier for Cubans to legally emigrate to the United States, White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said Wednesday.

Ms. Myers said that under current U.S. policy, up to 20,000 Cubans are allowed to emigrate to the United States, but that because of immigration procedures only 5,000 actually reach U.S. shores.

"We are reviewing it," Ms. Myers said of possible changes. "That is an option."

"We're looking at ways to streamline the existing immigration process," Ms. Myers told reporters, stressing that no final decisions have been reached.

Cuban leader Fidel Castro has long complained that complex U.S. immigration practices encourage Cubans to try to reach the United States in boats, rather than wait to be approved by legal means.

The review of U.S. policy was aimed at encouraging Cubans to wait, rather than continue to try to reach the United States by sea.

Coast Guard pitted up more than 300 Cubans Wednesday morning after hitting a new high of 3,252 the day before, authorities said.

Tuesday's total was the highest in a single day since the 1980 Mariel boatlift, and the exodus from Cuba showed no sign of letting up despite the United States' new closed-door policy toward the refugees.

At 8:30 a.m. (1230 GMT), 318 Cubans had been plucked from the Florida Straits, said Petty Officer Jeff Hall.

All the Cubans rescued by the Coast Guard Wednesday were en route to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in line with the



A group of Cuban refugees with their inner tube rafts tied together wave to a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter on patrol over the Florida Straits. Despite the changes in U.S. refugee policy, thousands of Cubans continue to flee their country in anything that floats (AFP photo)

new U.S. policy of interning them there until other safe havens can be found in the region, Mr. Hall said.

The White House has predicted the number of refugees will dwindle as word of the new policy, including indefinite detention, spreads in Cuba.

But the closed door has shown no sign of stemming the flow.

Some Cubans say the journey is worth the risk because they believe they only will stay at Guantanamo briefly before being allowed into the United States or sent to a third country.

The administration scrambled Tuesday to find other options to handle the outpouring, asking a dozen countries in the region to provide refuge for the Cubans and the some 14,000 Haitians held in another refugee camp at the naval base.

No agreement has been announced.

The influx threatened to swamp the 10,000 spaces for Cubans that Defence Secretary William Perry had said

Guantanamo would hold.

The first Cuban boat people were taken ashore at Guantanamo Monday and that number was expected to reach 6,000 within a day or two.

Given the numbers of refugees that are being picked up, authorities are considering providing more places at the base, Pentagon spokesman Doug Kennett said.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that an option under consideration was expanding capacity to accommodate more than 16,000 Cubans. The expansion would be done by clearing beachfront to hold tents and sleeping bags.

"Expanding facilities at Guantanamo won't be desirable, pleasant or cheap," one official was quoted as saying.

The administration is planning to have the 10,000 accommodations for Cubans ready by Saturday.

Mr. Clinton held a late-night White House meeting with advisers, including Mr. Perry, Attorney General Janet Reno and Deputy

Secretary of State Strobe Talbott to review options.

The New York Times said that in addition to an expansion of the Guantanamo facilities, officials at the meeting considered the option of a reviewing an emergency contingency plan developed in the 1980s after the Mariel boatlift.

The classified plan includes distributing refugees in military bases and other federal facilities around the United States so that Florida is not unduly burdened, the daily said.

"If you get 150,000 people coming out of Cuba you may have to look at all times of options," an official told the Times.

In a related development, the White House said in a statement it will send a delegation of senior officials to south Florida Wednesday at the request of Florida Governor Lawton Chiles to consult with the community about the Cuban influx.

The Miami area has the largest concentration of Cuban exiles outside Cuba.

Jordan Times

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Back to 'old' school?

IN TWO days time, tens of thousands of young Jordanians will be heading back to school. The minority of those will return to class rooms after an attractive summer vacation full of activities. The majority of the students, however, will have spent the past months unable to fill leisure time usefully due to the lack of facilities available for most middle and lower class people. For the latter group, as well as for their parents, the holiday might as well be a burden. The parents had to put up with children who had nothing to do; the children turned the streets into playgrounds. The summer holiday was a boredom, a time wasted, young energies not given the chance to express themselves in a constructive way.

The schools to which the children will return will also offer different environments.

The lucky minority will go back to air-conditioned, well-equipped classrooms in private schools that will captivate the children who people them. Teachers there will, as required by their management, go out of their way to make the kids feel welcome. For most of those students, another year of enjoyable and rewarding learning will begin.

But such is not the case for the majority of Jordanians. The classrooms will be overcrowded, teaching aids not available and the hot August summer quenching all enthusiasm to start the new scholastic year in the right frame of mind. In these schools, the feeling of frustration will be shared by the teachers. These are the pillars of the educational process who feel forgotten by the system. They are underpaid, they are overworked, and many of them are waiting for the chance to leave this job to a better place of work. Those teachers will not go out of their way to welcome the children back.

That the educational system is declining is clear, like the case indeed is in so many other countries, including in the developed world. The results of the Tawjihi exam with more than 50 per cent failing speak volumes for the deterioration that has crept into the educational system. But no action seems to be planned to remedy the situation.

The political changes taking place in the Middle East have been presented as a major force that will transform the area. There is no denying that the challenge that Jordan will face in the new times of peace require as much, if not more, preparation than the state of war from which the region is trying to free itself. The new generation is the one that will eventually have to face the challenge, they have to be prepared. And the schools are the right place to start. A thorough and detailed plan to overhaul the educational system should start immediately. Reform at schools will eventually translate into reform in all sectors and aspects of the society and the economy. It will mean that Jordan will be able to face the challenge of peace and reap its opportunities. Otherwise, the country will end up with the same suffering and its cries will be in vain.

The beginning of the school year should be the beginning of reforms at our schools. Or, at the very least, we all should be talking and debating the subject.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday said that since Jordan's foreign policy was a reflection of its domestic policy, there was a need that the development and modernisation process go hand-in-hand with developing Jordan's relations at the international level, whether in economic, cultural, political or strategic fields. Within this context, we understand the objective of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali's visit to the United States to deliver several lectures on the Middle East peace process and Jordan's role in it. The paper said that the premier asserted the need to maintain Jordan's presence in Western intellectual arenas. It is normal to say that Jordan's image at the international arena is a shining image which was painted by His Majesty King Hussein and which was enhanced by Jordan's credibility. This is what makes Jordan depicted by the media as an advocate of peace to an extent that made most of the world leaders voice their confidence in and support for King Hussein in addition to their understanding of the Kingdom's vital role in the region, whether during the peace process or after it is finished.

A COLUMNIST in AL Ra'i Wednesday stressed that the public have to give their views on the unity of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples in order to contain Jordanian-Palestinian differences. Sultan Al Hartab said that the Jordanian-Palestinian difference might be easy or difficult to solve, and might be of the type that exists between brothers or family members. He said these differences should first be recognised in order to be resolved. When the two sides meet, these differences seem non-existent and when they end their meeting the differences resurface, he said, stressing that the two sides should be frank when discussing problems. The columnist called for differentiating between the relations between the two peoples and the official relations that might get tense without the knowledge of the people and against their will.

The View From Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdounbeh

The 'popular' areas and the need for social action

THE COUNTRY's so-called "popular" areas, in many ways akin to what is called the "slum" or "ghetto" in other countries, are in need of both serious attention and serious social action, much more than they are presently receiving. In these areas, which comprise the greater part of the capital and of the major Jordanian towns and cities, conditions are extremely unacceptable. These areas are crowded, overpopulated, disorderly, noisy, filthy, dusty and ugly. Most disturbingly, the quality of life for most people living in them, both at the physical and psychological level, is itself immensely poor.

There is no space, and there is no peace of mind. The houses are built so close to each other that a casual conversation, a heated debate, or a fight at your neighbour's house sounds like it is coming from within your own living room. The large vehicles are roaming night and day poisoning the air and deafening ears. Peddlers and salesmen of all kinds, using disturbing "musical" instruments of all sorts, are at it from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. The kids are ransacking and abusing public roads: when they are not playing soccer in the streets, they are throwing stones at each other for fun — damaging the cars standing nearby, the trees, the street lamps and even the telephone posts and the bricks in the sidewalk. Neither the kids themselves nor their parents seem to have any sense of respect for public property, public space (whatever is left of it), or privacy. A friend of mine, who tells me he is losing his sanity, keeps saying: You cannot apply the concept of the concept of the inferno of hell unless you live in these areas.

The ideal solution lies in drastic surgery, partial demolition or total removal of these areas. Luckily, some of this is already happening — in two ways. First, many of the younger men and women who have been able to secure a good job or those anxious to start a family in a more liveable neighbourhood, are moving out. Secondly, the various housing projects which have recently been successfully implemented in many regions throughout the country, such as the one sponsored by the Directorate of Urban Development, have encouraged many low-income families to change their place of habitat. These two steps, which have undoubtedly improved the Jordanian urban landscape as well as the demographic image, are welcome news.

But not everyone is willing or can afford to relocate. Due to population increase, many of these areas are in fact flourishing and expanding. Newly-married couples who are unable to meet the expenses of life outside these areas continue to live in them, consuming newer space or crowding the already-crowded homes of their parents or relatives. What do we do?

In addition to finding appropriate space for kids to play in (such as school playgrounds after school or empty areas nearby), to planting more trees and gardens (and protecting them), to restricting the movement of large vehicles, to prevent the building of new houses or apartments except according to proper specifications, we need to focus on

improving the quality of life itself. Upon this point I wish to insist here. Those who live in the "popular" areas are people who, like everyone else on God's green earth, appreciate and enjoy (even when they do not appear to) fresh air, cleanliness, tranquility, peace of mind and privacy.

Towards this general end, some serious social, sociological, or anthropological action ought to be taken, by both the governmental institutions concerned (such as the Ministry of Development) and the various volunteer or charity groups, whose services are insufficiently offered or totally unfelt. A great deal is to be done here. The main thing, however, is the creation and promotion of community consciousness. This is the cause of most inconveniences and problems in these highly underdeveloped areas. What is needed is for a social worker to visit people in their homes constantly and enthusiastically (not just symbolically or sporadically) and attempt to explain ways and eliminate some bad habits, practices, or modes of behaviour which harm the community at large. People need to learn to watch their behaviour or act more carefully and to be more sensitive to the needs of others. People can learn to be less loud in their conversation, to throw garbage in the trash containers not on the pavement, to care for the few trees in the few gardens and on sidewalk, and not to break street lamps, etc. There is so much work for the social worker or the caring citizen to do.

The other day, I saw a little girl (not more than 7 or 8), barefooted, dragging a heavy plastic bucket (not a trash bag) full of garbage, heading in the direction of the trash container some 100 metres away. Her hands were deep inside whatever garbage there was in the bucket; the bucket was so heavy that she kept dragging it and resting; the filth inside it dripped at every pull she made. When she finally made it to the container, she dumped what was left next to it, for she was unable to lift it all the way up. She wiped her sweat off her forehead with her dirty hands and left. Two kids were playing hide and seek closely, one of them was barefooted, stepped in the garbage several times. A few cats then came and scattered the garbage all over the place.

Much can be said about this incident, which is only one out of many. One can talk about the noise the bucket made (which drew my attention in the first place), about the filth that dripped, about the parental abuse of the poor child, about her health, etc. And about how to solve problems of this nature.

Neighbours in our part of the world find it difficult to accept comments or advice from fellow neighbours, assuming the latter care to speak or are aware of communal problems. For this reason, we want more specialised, more formalised help in addressing community problems in the popular areas, help such as that coming from social workers who need to make themselves a little more visible than they currently are.

In my opinion, social work at this stage in our society's development is as crucial (perhaps even more) as our ability to negotiate a satisfactory peace settlement with Israel.

When will Israel bury the bully club?

By Yael Dayan

The writer is a Labour MK. The article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

IT BEGAN in subdued tones, a matter of style.

"We know whom we're dealing with (the PLO and its chief). Let them sweat a little. That's all there is."

There was no mention of chemistry or physiology or the values separating the people, not just the leaders.

"They" (those who, by implication, are not like us) are not capable of, and don't even want to, live democratically, efficiently, collecting taxes and maintaining a judicial, economic or health system.

We, of course, abide by High Court rulings, the Declaration of Independence, egalitarian and liberal legislation; we have no corruption or cumbersome bureaucracy. We shall not pass a law limiting imports for reasons of kashrut; we have no agnucot (abandoned wives or widows forbidden to re-wed), no persons disqualified for marriage.

We have no white-collar criminals; and administrative procedures, or receiving rights we are entitled to, are simple matters, effected politely and quickly.

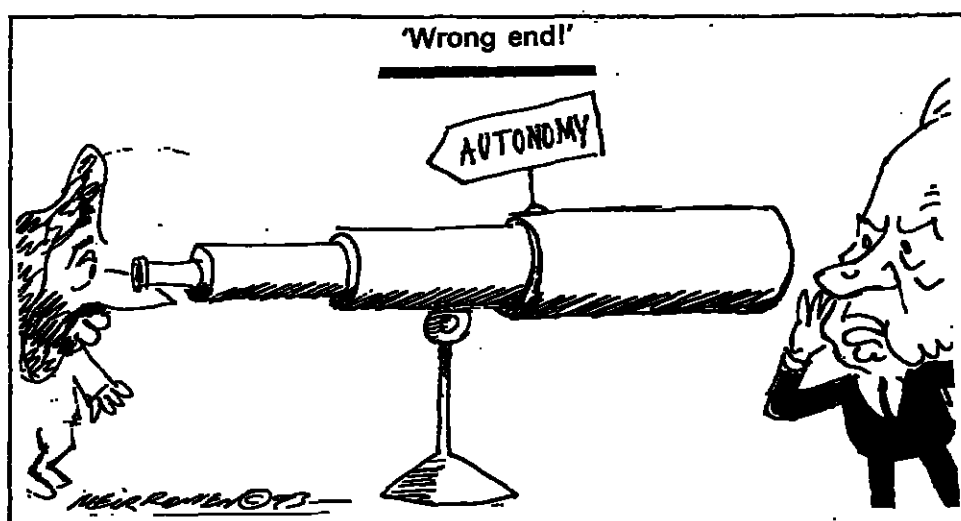
But "they" are parasites, starting out with a huge debt, and dependent on donations.

We live by the toil of our hands and enjoy economic independence.

The only good thing about the Gazans is that we are rid of them; there is almost a consensus on this.

Those who were disillusioned when their malicious predictions — that there would be a massacre there and Sabra and Shatila would be a picnic compared to Gaza and Khan Yunis — did not materialise, now console themselves, like frustrated prophets, with the news that "they are killing their brothers, mostly collaborators."

No one refers to the health and education situation, the filth, the sewage, the poverty and misery; nor is there self-blame or apology or a clear analysis of exactly what we did about open sewers in Gaza, or the dimensions of unemployment and poverty in Rafah. It's as if we weren't there for 27 years, responsible for the good and the bad, for the welfare and security of the residents. As if we



allowed them to develop and have relations with the rest of the world, and imposed free, compulsory education, a tax system, and national insurance; enabled the purchase of medical equipment, and everything else. As if they deserve their distress as collective punishment, and are genetically geared to be neglected.

Perhaps we should recall that their war of independence was not fought in the northern Norwegian forests or on Washington's laws. The intifada was unleashed out of despair, using nails and claws, stones; at a heavier cost than imagined; and it succeeded.

"They" — "those who understand only force" — spoke to us (who are rich in languages) in the language of force, and we understood — and how! By way of the intifada we grit our teeth and recognised the PLO and Arafat. And with much disgust and queasiness we even got to that handshake in Washington.

Yet the account is not balanced. And while today it is clear that we have quit Gaza, we are not relieved of the need to be occupiers and the deep feeling that they are inferior and will remain so — of course, "through no fault of ours."

We have not freed ourselves from the thought that a Palestinian state will arise only as a reward from us for their good behaviour; that we are the giving side, they are the receiving. ("And what have they been giving?" people here ask. And the answer is that, with difficulty, they are shaking off their chains and handcuffs, temporarily and to a limited degree.) They are ungrateful. It is

not clear whether they are "entitled" to national insurance payments or computer listings in the population Registry. They are told to "prove they are entitled" to our charity, without any understanding that what they get will be by right.

Our violations of the agreement are no fewer than theirs; but we totally lack the magnanimity of the victor, the strong, the settled.

There is no symmetry between those shooting and those weeping, between those shot and the weepers. The work we provided for them served the idleness of our economy and its calculations more than it did the Gazans.

Intentionally or by force of inertia we were both military occupiers and oppressors of all initiatives. Gazans were forbidden for years to acquire facsimile machines, out of fear they would be vehicles for incitement.

We behaved like colonialists of the worst kind, and even though we withdrew from Gaza, we have not shaken off these attributes. We hand out grades and force an entire people to face matriculation tests of a kind we never passed, and measure them by a standard not applied to ourselves.

We are an examining board that subjects an entire people to an educational pattern and obstacle course without even indicating what they will find at the end of the tunnel if they pass this humiliating course.

Security is, indeed, our affair; and to maintain it they need the means. It's not our affair who is authorised to sign for that; when

we supervise the transfer of funds and decide who signs to eliminate the sewage, it is worth remembering who left the sewers open all those years, and the mosquitoes that bred there.

The arrogance, the feeling of superiority, the lack of values, the ignorance, are our problem. What can be done is to stop tormenting them, pestering them. There's no need to be judgemental; they don't go to our school, are not moving one class ahead or down.

Characteristically, Jerusalem Mayor Olmert says that Nabil Shaath, Yasser Arafat, and Arafat have no faith; are not religious men; that for them prayer on the Temple Mount is a political act, not the act of people who come quietly, modestly, to commune with their Creator. Thus speaks the censor of faith and religion.

This is in complete contrast to Sharon, Shamir, Rabin, Peres and Olmert himself — all their visits to the Western Wall or to a synagogue flow from the desire to commune with their God and from their burning faith, which manifests in their immaculate observance of kashrut and all 613 mitzvot.

And in the West Bank, a moment before the handing over of power, during the army's search in the village of Dinba, our soldiers filled a washing machine with flour, and TV sets and other instruments were smashed. A farewell gift, a step toward confidence-building?

Even though we are accustomed to this, the punitive rods must be put away.

A disappointing message

By Mohammad Daoudieh

The writer is a member of Parliament from Tafleh. The article is translated from Al Dustour daily.



IT WAS with astonishment that I learnt of a message sent by a group of Jordanian personalities to Syrian President Hafez Assad. The 40 signatories have in fact sent the letter to the neighbouring Arab country's political leadership with the intention of harming the Jordanian political leadership, a move that is not acceptable to any one, hence my deep disappointment.

The message to the Syrian president was like any other letter sent to an Arab leader, but in essence it was implicitly directed to the Jordanian leadership.

We have seen lately numerous political statements over talks on the Jordanian-Israeli track, describing these talks as some sort of capitulation, exactly as had happened earlier regarding the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

Political groups in Jordan, including the Muslim Brotherhood, have been explicit in their opposition to the peace process. Their opposition was manifested in a symbolic sit-in in front of the Hussein Mosque on July 25. Opposition was also evident in the local press as well.

Opposition is the right of political groups, something I strongly support because Jordanians have always called for the freedom of expression, including the right to oppose dealings with the Jews.

The 40 personalities who signed the letter to President Assad could have issued a statement to the Jordanian and Arab masses expressing their views regarding the peace talks without trying to offend the Jordanian political leadership.

What is noticeable about the letter to the Syrian leader was the fact that it did not carry the signature of any of the well-known Jordanian political figures who have been leading the political opposition to the Jordanian-Israeli talks.

The letter had no signatures of people like Faris Nabulsi, Issa Mdanat, Taysir Zibri, Salem Nahas, Laith Shubailat, Mustafa Shneikat, Bassam Haddadin, Ibrahim Baker, Bahjat Abu Gharbieh, Mazen Al Saket, Munes Razzaq, Azmi Khawaja or Luay Dabbagh.

It also did not have the signatures of the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood or leaders of the Islamic Action Front like Ishaq Al Farhan, Hamzeh Mansour, Abdullah Akayleh, Abdul Rahim Ekour, Hammam Saeed, Abdul Aziz Jaber, Suleiman Al Saad, Ahmad Kassabeh or Bader Riati.

That means one of two possibilities: Either the signatories had not sought the backing of the leaders of the political groups in the Kingdom or those who wrote it and signed it had sought the political groups' signatures who in turn refused to sign it for the obvious reason that it could offend the Jordanian leadership.

I, therefore, express my astonishment over this letter that was signed by personalities like Yaqoub Ziadin, Jawdat Muheisen, Milhem Tell, George Haddad, Saleh Kneian Al Fayez and Emily Naffaa.

Let us be frank: We are in an era of glasnost which requires that we call things by their names. In addition we are in a beautiful country where a citizen can express his/her views and direct his/her support to anywhere beyond the borders without fear of any threat to his/her life. This is a blessing that I do not think any country (beyond the Jordanian borders) enjoys nor a citizen (beyond these borders) knows about. The phenomenon of "beyond the borders" is a pure Jordanian phenomenon.

Let us be frank. We have a Syria group in this country; we have an Iraq group, Iran group, Libya group, Saudi group, PLO group, Fateh group, Habash group, Hawatmech group, Jibril group, Abu Nidal group, Abul Abbas group, Abed Rabbo group, you name it.

The General Intelligence Department (GID) knows this, as do the writers, the journalists and the political parties.

True the PLO has suffered a lot because of the existence of factions that belong to different Arab states, despite the PLO slogan: No interference in the affairs of Arab countries and no Arab interference in the organisation's affairs.

The letter to the Syrian president was signed by three groups:

The first, members of the Jordanian Communist Party headed by dear Yaqoub Zayadeen and his colleagues Khaled Hamshawhi, Emili Naffaa, Abdul Aziz Al Atti, Faraj Al Tumeizi. I have the right to wonder how could the Jordanian Communists sign a letter like this. They are the ones who most frequently raise the banner of the independence of political action in Jordan and they are the most affected by the PLO's attempt to contain and marginalise the Jordanian political movement.

The Jordanian Communists are the most capable of expressing themselves and they might be the most daring as well. They have paid a heavy price for public freedoms and struggled for these freedoms. They also raised an early slogan and were the only ones to do so at the time. That slogan was: "The national democratic Jordan." By raising that slogan they have put an intellectual and theoretical limit to the slogan of "fighting the regime" and entered a stage of constitutional reforms and a stage of activating and saving the constitution as well as supporting public freedoms. So is it constitutional for them to do what they did?

The second group. The Jordanian Constitutional Front Party led by Milhem Al Tall and Dr. Ahmad Al Awaishah. The Constitutional Party was one of the first Jordanian political groups that called for a constitutional political life when it was accused then that it was supporting the regime and that it wants to repair it from within rather than to fight it from the outside.

I wrote about the party's early maturity in Al Dustour newspaper in 1989 and Milhem Al Tall himself had referred to my article on more than one occasion. Is it also constitutional then that the front does this?

The third group. The Arab Socialist Baath Party, which is close to Syria, or "the Syria group" as they are called on the political street. They are led by Mahmoud Al Maatiah. I do not believe that this group came up with anything new. It is allied to the Syrian regime at all circumstances. They supported Syria during the aggression on Iraq in 1990 and are supporting it in its current political position. And I think they are supporting it in its current political position regarding the peace process that both them and us do not know anything about.

"The message" has shocked the Jordanian society because some Jordanian political figures who signed it were expected to behave only in a wise manner. I believe that some of those who signed it did that because they did not mean to support the Syrian regime, but to draw the attention of the Jordanian regime thinking that the rule "be different to get known" is the golden rule that achieves for these people personal gains since what would follow is to call them and to appease them.

This is a tragedy in itself, since political opportunism has become dominant factor. That is the reason that, prompted some who have never taken a patriotic stand before to sign this "message." Not even that, but also some are known for their opposition to democracy and are known to be the "protégés of the regime." Yet, should we cut our noses to enrage our lips?

Weekender

Aug. 25, 1994

A

Published Every Thursday

Returning home

Born in East Jerusalem, journalist **Lina Nabil** writes for Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper and magazines in Jordan and in other Arab countries. Just after the signing of the Cairo Agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel on May 4, she left Amman to make her first journey back to the West Bank and Gaza Strip in over twenty years.

I couldn't sleep that night. I lay wide awake, gazing into the darkness, turning thoughts of the next day over in my mind. I was to travel to the homeland I had not seen for more than 23 years. Would I still recognise it? The news that people had brought back was varied. They said some cities had changed completely. New parts had been added, while others had vanished.

In the car that took us to the crossing point I was silent. I knew the road to the bridge across the Jordan River very well. I had gone that way hundreds of times — to say goodbye to or welcome friends — but only as far as the bridge. This time, the road took another shape. My heart beat faster and my nerves tensed as we drew closer to the crossing point.

After the formalities, I arrived on the "other side," as we often call it in conversation, near Jericho, once a sleepy Palestinian winter resort and now the site for major news stories. Within moments, my apprehension began to disappear. I did recognise my homeland. Images of people, places and events flashed before my mind's eye.

Soon I found myself being swept into a pageant of sights and sounds,

caught up in the history being made in Jericho and Gaza. The joyous celebrations as the first Palestinian policemen arrived, the tumultuous welcome accorded to returning relatives, the embraces and tears which greeted freed prisoners. Amidst the joy, I sensed the sadness which still dots Gaza's waters and sand dunes and shared the hope that the future would be better than the past.

It was the return of deported Palestinians which touched me most deeply — homecomings which told a myriad of stories about lives marred by years of separation between members of the same family. I savoured the experience of my own return through the emotional reunions which were taking place all around me.

The long road ahead

Haj Mustapha lives in Kalandia refugee camp just north of Jerusalem. He has spent most of his life tilling the land. His olive trees gave bumper crops during the second year of the intifada. "We did not rejoice because four of my children were in prison and one was ill," said Haj Mustapha, looking lovingly at his son

Ahmad, back with the family after 25 years.

Haj Mustapha insisted on planting an olive tree and an orange tree next to the door of his house and vegetables of all sorts on what is left of his yard. A television set, a cupboard and scattered pillows furnish one of the two rooms that make up his house.

His is a typical Palestinian family. "We aren't different from thousands of other Palestinian households whose lives have been torn apart by the long years of occupation, separation and suffering," he said.

"Aren't we also entitled to dream?" he asked. "I had always dreamt of sitting with my six children, talking together like any other family around the world. Not about prisons and deportations. Not about curfews and the demolition of houses. Now, I believe that the dream has, at long last, come true, despite the fact that the road ahead is still very long." The peace process, he said, "deserves to be given a chance." His sons nod in agreement.

The same question — "Aren't we also entitled to dream?" — was echoed by 12-year-old Ayman, in crowded Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza, still hanging on the arm of his brother Nidal, a member of the Palestinian police force. Ayman and many other members of his family, saw Nidal for the first time when he returned with the police from Yemen. Nidal had gone missing in the Palestinian exodus from Lebanon. His family had thought he had been killed.

One hears the same story over and over again in Gaza and in Jericho. Mothers reaching out to touch the faces of their own children for the first time in decades. Fathers lamenting the lost years spent without their loved ones. Differences over the peace process were set aside. Supporters and opponents rallied round to welcome long-lost friends and relatives.

Together again

Throughout Gaza and Jericho, families torn

A glimpse of Jericho

"These are my happiest moments," said Mohammad Ajlari, an officer in Agabab Jabr and Ein Al Sultan refugee camps near Jericho. He was busy taking over from the Israeli civilian administration. "We used to enter these quarters only to receive orders or to be interrogated. It's now been turned into a Palestinian police station," he said. A colleague, Ahmad Ramadan added, "We might face some difficulties, but with our strong morale, we will overcome them. What we seek might not be the present situation but, at least now we can walk about freely, even if it's only around a small spot a few kilometres in size." It is a comment repeated by everyone you meet in Jericho.



Two brothers — one from Gaza Palestinian policeman — and the other a returning embrace for the first time in 27 years

me a message for his family in Beach refugee camp in Gaza. He said he had not seen them yet, but had talked to them over the phone. He could scarcely wait for his first chance to go to Gaza. His father and brother, also among the returnees, were already there. Some aunts and a grandmother had visited him in Jericho. While he waited for the first full reunion with his family in 15 years Ala' told me that "meeting the homeland" had been "most exquisite, most beautiful."

At home in Gaza

That evening, at Ala's family home in the refugee camp in Gaza, I

chatted with his family. I heard many stories of the long days of confrontation, steadfastness and suffering which had become part and parcel of everyday life for Palestinians in Gaza.

There are many people Ala' will not be able to see. His first encounters with some of his relatives were to be painful — especially with his youngest brother and a cousin. Both were paralysed before the age of 12 by bullets fired by Israeli soldiers in retaliation for stones they hurled at the troops, then still the occupiers. The bullets remain embedded in their bodies. Doctors have been unable to remove them.

But Ala' and his family hope that peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis might bring an end to their sorrows and those of many like them. Ala's return to his homeland might herald a new era, unknown to the generations that came before him, who lived as refugees in the Palestinian diaspora in more than one camp and in more than one country.

My encounter with the homeland lasted just three days. I didn't want to leave. Back in Jordan, I had another sleepless night. Will I return? How will it be then?

— Palestine Refugees Today

Viennese enjoy pizza, beer and wine in hospital

By Alexandra Zawadil
Reuters

VIENNA — Sigmund Freud would be turning in his grave if he could see what they've done to the hospital where he gave his first lectures.

The founding father of psychoanalysis would barely recognise Vienna's 300-year-old Allgemeines Krankenhaus Hospital (AKH), now that the doctors and patients have all moved out to a new medical centre nearby.

Beer and pizza are served in the former emergency ambulance, what was once the operating ward now resounds to hard rock music and sandwiches are available in what used to be diagnostic room of the Urology Department.

When the last hospital bed was moved to the new building last year and the old barack-type pavilions were disinfected and cleared, the city of Vienna invited cafe and wine bar

owners to set up shop in some of the large, leafy courtyards and cool former wards.

"It's a bit macabre here but that's what I like about it," said Sabine Haninger leaning against a weathered wall sipping a drink between what had been the brain surgery and pathology departments.

"I've even heard that there is going to be a bar in the former morgue," the 24-year-old student added. "But that may be just a rumour."

If visitors feel in need of food for thought they can visit the pathological-anatomical collection in the hospital's former lunatic asylum in a fortress-like tower nicknamed the "Fruitcake" (Kugelhupf) which dates back to 1784.

The tower's five floors house some 50,000 examples of medical exotica, some macabre such as the preserved embalmed body of a child who died in 1780 of an unknown disease.

The skeleton of a five-

year-old princess with an enlarged cranium due to water on the brain is another bizarre exhibit underlying the Latin motto over the door to the tower which says: "This is the place where death is pleased to help life."

Many of the exhibits still serve younger generations of medical students who can study the effects of diseases which have long been eradicated.

Founded in 1693 for the invalids of the Turkish wars and popularly known

as the "House Of Suffering" or the "Plague House," the old AKH in its present form was built by the Emperor Joseph out of his private funds in 1784 as a hospital for the poor.

It was here that the renowned "Vienna School" of medicine was founded and where Freud unveiled psychoanalysis in the hall of the psychiatric clinic.

"I can't really say where Freud gave his lectures," said the waiter of the wine

bar in the former clinic, a second year medical student. "I'm too busy serving spritzers (wine and mineral water) to bother about things like that."

Except for a few signs left on the buildings there is little in the compound, with its big courtyards and springs where patrons sip their drinks at brightly-decked tables, to remind the visitor of the AKH's recent past.

Only a tree with banded branches supported by "crutches" stands here

in memory.

"It's so feudal-looking," says Wolfgang Kindermann, a regular here. "It's much nicer to smell flowers instead of chloroform."

The old AKH will shortly be adding another academic veneer to its colourful history.

Next year, parts of Vienna University, chronically cramped for space, will start moving into some of the vacated rooms.

Emotional abuse — as destructive as any other

Men Who Hate Women & The Women Who Love Them

By Dr. Susan Forward

Published by Bantam Books Inc. U.S.A.

Women abuse does not always have to take a physical form. According to Dr. Susan Forward, "emotional abuse can be just as, if not more than, destructive." The only difference lies in the weapons used for destruction.

In her book *Men Who Hate Women & The Women Who Love Them*, first published in 1986, Dr. Forward dwells on the far-reaching effects of engaging in a long-term relationship with someone she labels as a "misogynist", a Greek word meaning a "woman-hater". She accounts for the moral and physical decline of her formerly successful and presentable clients by highlighting the results of tolerating continuous public or private humiliation from their intimate partners.

Dr. Forward relates the demoralising behaviour of women-haters to two major types of recognised character disorders. The first involves narcissism, to which category totally self-obsessed men, who go from one relationship to another, belong. These men, the "Peter Pans and Don Juans", in their search of love and admiration, can crush many hearts and are called "the people who cannot love."

The second main category includes men who stick to one partner, but, who figure the only way to keep that partner is to exercise total control over her. To achieve this, these men seek to attack their partners' self-esteem with insulting comments, purposefully sabotage their career progress, issue disapproval of their family members and their choice of friends or denigrate their personal accomplishments. Without realis-

ing it, they totally ruin their partners' self-image and self-confidence leaving them in a state of depression and helplessness. Then they blame the outcome on their partners' own weaknesses and inadequacies.

What normally entraps women, according to Dr. Forward, are the mediatory periods of unmistakable charm and deep-felt affection that somehow manage to wipe out previous outbursts of ill-behaviour. "I have come to call this Jekyll and Hyde-ing," said Dr. Forward. This intermediate attitude of love and tenderness keeps women hooked in the desperate hope that things will be different later on.

The demeaning consequence of such an emotional roller-coaster manifests itself, according to Dr. Forward, when these women internalise and accept the responsibility of their partners' unpredictable tantrums and so become overwhelmed with self-blame. Since their partners can show wonderful and loving behaviour at times, then their sudden switch to verbal attacks and abusive conduct must, in these women's minds, reflect on their own lapses from grace. And once a woman accepts an attack on her self-worth or bows down to verbal abuse, she opens a door for an endless number of future assaults. Dr. Forward added.

Also in this attitude, a new bond is discovered in the relationship: Both partners blame the woman for anything that goes wrong, even when the man's rageful explosions arise from totally insignificant events.

Then while looking for the "magic key" to her partners' happiness, a woman only permits herself to become totally dominated by this unattainable hope to continuously please her partner. Unfortunately a misogynist's signals are always changing and what pleases him one day may not please him the next. This naturally heightens the woman's confusion and be-

wilderment, especially since she is, in most cases, expected to be a "power of strength", because to a misogynist, any expression of vulnerability is viewed with absolute contempt. His anticipation of ideality from his partner is a double-edged sword, said Dr. Forward, because it is flattering, but at the same time it overlooks the fact that being only human, she is doomed to fail. This failure instigates unrelenting criticism which wears the woman down psychologically.

In addition, under the guise of love and devotion, some misogynists' possessiveness and insatiable demands will eventually narrow the women's world so that it becomes seriously limited to suit their partners' needs. This can result from encouraged expression of true love or in response to pressures via indirect disapproval of general practices. So with the ultimate addictive dependency on her partner, Dr. Forward said, the woman experiences total annihilation of her individuality and sense of self-value.

However, the underlying factor responsible for the continuation of "misogynistic" relationships, Dr. Forward believes, is the family, which appears to young children as the only source of information about the world. When a parent, for instance, makes a judgement about a child's basic worth, this opinion becomes fact in the child's mind.

Also, a troubled household leaves children confused and reflects upon their future relationships. A climate of enormous tension in parents' home, combined with kindness and affection, gives children the message that "drama is an essential component of love."

In the family backgrounds of misogynists, according to Dr. Forward, there is no equal balance of power between the father and the mother. This escalates the

child's emotional instability and insecurity leading to his overbearing future conduct with his partner.

A tyrannical father role model gives the child the message that powerful men's mistreatment of helpless women is socially acceptable. And a controlling mother prevents her child from developing mastery over his own life or realising his competences so much so that he starts viewing other women as frightening malevolent creatures. So to guarantee his masculinity remaining intact, according to Dr. Forward, his relationships with women become more like persistent power struggles.

As for the woman, emotional foundations are created by ways in which her parents treated her and each other, the messages they communicated through their behaviour, as well as the way she handled the information internally, said Dr. Forward. When a mother models submission, the girl develops the tendency to give in when dealing with aggression from men in her future relationships. Furthermore, with cultures general support for women's dependency, girls are always getting lessons in helplessness. The cultural restriction on girls' anger also results in blocking a strong emotion from normal expression and so these angry feelings find an outlet in their own selves resulting in self-hatred.

Finally, Dr. Forward defined a healthy relationship as one based on mutual respect and a relatively equal balance of power. Of course, arguments, differences of opinions, even anger may exist, but "loving partners find effective ways of dealing with their differences; they do not view each encounter as a battle to be won or lost," Dr. Forward concluded.

Rima Cortbawi

BOOK REVIEW

The bottom line

By Jean-Claude Elias

If, for a while, we put aside the megabytes, the megahertz and all the hype that surrounds computers, what do we have left? A tool that for some is still a mystery but for others has become a device as familiar as a telephone set. A tool that is sometimes loved for itself but often serves as a means to accomplish certain tasks.

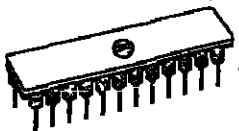
We use computers to perform tasks that, for us, are unthinkable manually, like handling huge amounts of data (the telephone book of New York City for instance). Or for complex mathematical calculations that would be not only too difficult but also very long to perform manually.

However, beyond the complex, the huge or the sophisticated, is the daily, simple work that we have learned to process using computers: word processing, book keeping, drawing, music making, filing, etc. In all these tasks that could otherwise be done manually, the machine helps us to do them better and faster. In other words, with greater efficiency.

The new peace situation in the area has brought fresh, positive prospects. In this scope the press has extensively reported the concern of people from all classes of society and various professional backgrounds to be up to the new challenge. We all realise that we have to improve the way we work. Whatever we are doing, we must do it with a higher efficiency.

Making a better use of computers to improve all kinds of work, at all levels and in all fields of activity is

chip talk



something we must start doing now. This is the age of information. We know it. But knowing it is not enough. Practical steps must be taken for a good management, a dynamic utilisation of information.

Computers, the main tools of processing information, are not only useful to make us reach our goal, I dare say that they are absolutely vital.

It is high time that the way we think about our personal computers (PC) evolves. Our worry should not be to concentrate on the machine's size or power. Any PC is worth having and using. Many organisations are doing a fine job with 8 years old, 80286-based equipment.

What we must improve are our skills at using the PCs. Attending specialised training courses is important and can make us move ahead on the road to efficiency. Computer awareness at school level should be enhanced. Though officially implemented, school computer programmes do not seem to fulfill the demand for the time being. A lot remains to be done in this domain.

Learning to learn effectively

By Stella G. Bagaeen

Learning to learn is not a new idea, Emile Rousseau in 1762 aimed to develop attitudes and methods of learning prior to acquisition of knowledge. Since 1956, this topic has become a field of research, information processing and cybernetics were the stimuli, but few of the ideas were filtered into the traditional schools curricula.

Sound learning strategies and effective learning is a must, it is not a matter of intelligence, age or years of experience, it is the knowledge of how to set, plan ahead, monitor one's performance, check and self-test the needs of a specific situation. To have a taste for sciences and the methods for learning them is more mature than the poor strategies like skipping difficult parts and not identifying key points, memorising details instead of looking for principles. Responding flexibly to the burst of knowledge needs style, a strong strategy and an approach to harness the potential of learners.

As far as training in study procedures is concerned, it should be based on understanding the individual needs, since the latter part of the 19th century scientific methods of teaching became necessary to the training of teachers who were to operate in a new setting of teacher-pupil and subject-matter relations, according to the American educationist Francis W. Parker. What mattered in a school was the child's own development. The school should be fitted to the needs of the child, and not the child to the school. Educational psychology became a necessity. A major shift was from the imposition of knowledge on the mind of the learner to an emphasis on the learner's activity of perception and comprehension of knowledge. Quality teaching was stressed by which it meant such things as activity, creative self-expression, excursions, understanding the individual, and the development of personality. During the first decade of the 20th century, educationists Maria Montessori of Rome and Ovide Decroly of Brussels both stressed the child-centred education and that teachers must invent their own methods and special apparatus to meet the needs of slow learners. New methods replaced the authoritarian approach of the traditional educator. The father of progressive education, John Dewey, whose writings and lectures influenced educators throughout the world, laid the foundations of a new philosophy that affected the structure of education, particularly at the elementary level. The child should be enabled to understand and to be understood.

What are the individual needs? What common themes should be identified? Learners should get much attention. Teachers must find out the rate at

which the learners gain more self-awareness. In fact, the foundation of self-awareness is laid in the early or middle years of adolescence when there is a marked development in mental functioning and a change from concrete operations to formal reasoning, mastering elementary skills and moving into more complex activities.

There are some common themes to be identified like study time, home work, discipline, note-taking, presentation of material, revision methods for examination, discussion groups, some techniques of self-directed learning, collaborate learning, resource based learning, learning from teachers and alternative ways of learning from radio, television, other medias and everyday experience.

Effective learning is achieved by means of certain strategies:

★ To develop an autonomy, to acquire an attitude or approach to cultivate habitual dispositions.

★ To learn rules and master general principles, always try to transfer to related situations, never be tied to one subject. Any skill should be generalised to new problems or novel situations.

★ To promote cultural growth and modes of learning, refinement, taste, intelligence, cultivation of the mind, action, evolution of thinking, a wide scope and depth of knowledge, structural and functional traits, attitudes, concepts, techniques, tools etc.

★ To expand knowledge by self inquiry in order to determine whether comprehension is occurring. We need to organise, digest material, monitor ongoing activities, to review, estimate, assume, presume and summarise.

★ The curriculum should be designed to comprise basic forms of knowledge, the learner should be able to seek information when he needs it and become independent.

Innovation, modernisation, adaptability and many other dimensions of culture are motives to generalise different strategies of learning beyond classrooms. With the pace of technological change the years of compulsory education is unable to offer much. Extensive knowledge is needed. More methods and attitudes are to be undertaken especially during the coming scholastic years. Much emphasis should be put upon technical and scientific skills to service the modern sector of the economy.

The acceleration of development needs plans that coordinate the different levels of education. The World Bank has attached priority in its development plans to the provision of technical specialists who can lead the country into self-sufficiency in technical, scientific and other specialist skills as the educational system is an integral part in the development process.

Someplace called home

By E. Yaghi

You know Mr. American Ambassador sir, I was up at your place the other day. Say, it's swell all right. I was very overwhelmed by those twin sandstone buildings looming on the crest of a parched hill like an artificial oasis way out in the middle of nowhere in a place where flowers should grow and artificial palm trees sway in the breeze and the sun when it shines, bakes everything around to a brittle crust. Please don't be offended though by my article, for my intention is not to belittle but to express my feelings as an American citizen. You see, I've always had this philosophy that the American embassy in whatever country it might be, is like a little piece of the U.S. Therefore, to any American citizen, going there should be just like going home. Well, I'm sorry to say that the homecoming reception isn't always all that it should be.

Some of the native staff who work at the embassy are really super and go out of their way to be extra special nice and polite. As for the Americans who I have come in contact with, they are also cordial, kind and helpful, but the only problem is, that we American citizens hardly ever see them anymore, and instead are dealt with by the local people. Now, mind, I'm not prejudiced against any person regardless of what his/her country of origin is, but I do sometimes get that nagging sensation that some people who work in the embassy take their work too much to heart and get rather stuffy and rude about their positions as if they belonged to some kind of elite social club. I think they might need some lessons in tact!

The other day, I met a beautiful native girl who works at your place. She really did offer me a gracious smile and if I hadn't been already burned by her abrupt behaviour on an earlier occasion, I might not have detected that icy gleam in her eye that conflicted with the otherwise cheerful expression on her face.

Well, OK, forget about the clerk or secretary or whatever she's supposed to be. Let's go on to the library. Now, I realise that I'm being wretched complaining about the library, especially since some people have taken great pains to make it as it is. Therefore, forgive me if I just state that it really puzzles me that the librarian is kind of stuffy and doesn't seem to speak much English, or if she does, then she must be keeping such knowledge a secret and is camouflaging her fluent command of the language. Her helper seems to be in even a worse state and although friendly, polite, and so forth, perhaps speaks Greek better than English. Also, the library seems so meager as far as the supply of books goes with the exception of American literature of which there is an abundance. Yet, on other subjects, I must say that the variety of books is disappointing and that there is much to be desired. (For example, I could find no informa-

tion about the subject of geography or human geography). And of course, there are no children's books whatsoever and all I can ask is, why? Are you trying to tell me that the only superpower in the world doesn't have enough money to spend on an adequate library? Come on now!

As for transportation, Mr. Ambassador, you have ever tried to get a ride, (not counting your personal escort of course) or walk down that long hill and up the other one once leaving your home? I'll tell you, in the summer heat, that up and down hill walking seems like the longest road in the world with not a taxi in sight. And not a stand anywhere to sell even a cold drink so that whoever has to walk the journey of no return will thirst to death by the time he/she reaches home if he/she ever does. Well I know that the embassy is like a place of business, for I see all those poor people flocking to your doors in order to be able to obtain a visa just to visit the golden American shores and I figure that every person who applies for a visa has to pay a certain fee and that many applications are rejected. Thus, I assume that applications and re-applications add up to a handsome sum of money. Couldn't some of this money be used in such a way as to make the embassy, your and my home away from home, a more accommodating place for the guests that it receives?

And couldn't some of your staff, not the polite and friendly and courteous ones, but those stuffy and cold zombies just smile a bit more? Remember that good old commercial attitude in America that "the customer is always right"? Consider all who come to your gates as customers who seek refuge, help, advice, solace and nostalgia within your confines. It is the duty of the American embassy, not just in times of emergencies which I hear you are superb at, but also in times of calm, to serve the American citizens regardless of whatever walk of life they come from, whatever colour of skin they might possess and whatever creed they might follow. It should be a motto of your embassy, (that island of America where we Americans should feel at home), that no one wears his intelligence or dignity on his clothes or his looks, but in his mind and heart.

Remember that each employee of your embassy is an unofficial ambassador of American foreign policy and an example of U.S. diplomacy. Please understand that I do not suggest firing any member of your staff, for this would be very cruel, but for those who are weak in English, they could always take lessons to improve their communicative abilities. As for those who are big headed, they could always deflate themselves a bit. And your place, instead of being in the middle of nowhere could be in the middle of somewhere, easily accessible by car and bus.

Quality management and the role of the consultant

Prepared by Raieka Jerjees (Management Consultant)
TEAM International (Jordan)

Quality is a journey which has milestones, rather than a destination. It must be a continuing concern of a company's management, not something that is done once, then forgotten.

Managing a quality company is more than just implementing a quality system consisting of a set of techniques that meet, for example, ISO 9000 standards. It is the creation of a quality culture which permeates the entire organisation. The characteristics of such a culture include: dedication to customer satisfaction; emphasis on continuous improvement; treating suppliers as business partners; communication and team work; empowering employees and commitment by top management.

The success of a quality programme depends on the commitment of top management. Quality cannot simply be delegated: Not to a quality champion, and certainly not to an external quality consultant. Management itself must take control and ownership of the quality issue.

The primary steps in initiating a quality programme are:

— Creating quality awareness and team spirit within the organisation; agreeing detailed project plan; identifying key responsibilities and adequately training key people.

A quality consultant can play a major role in helping a company to develop and implement a quality programme, as such a consultant will be

deeply involved in the company's development. Choosing a suitable quality consultant should therefore be approached in the same way as the recruitment of a senior staff member.

In managing a quality improvement programme, the advice of an experienced quality consultant can help to:

Structure the project effectively; reduce implementation time scale and provide much needed direction to staff.

The consultant's role is mainly an advisory one, although a more "hands-on" approach may be required in the early stages, to get the programme started. During the assignment, the consultant should:

- Conduct a preliminary study to establish where the client company stands vis-a-vis quality (quality assessment);
- Prepare a training programme to ensure that all key personnel receive adequate training for their duties in relation to the quality plan;
- Supervise the production of the quality manual;
- Provide guidance in selecting a suitable quality certification scheme, and assist in the preparation for certification audit;
- Monitor and regularly review progress against the plan;
- Organise and report on the proceedings of formal quality audits;
- Produce and circulate project status and progress reports and
- Propose and agree a time scale for implementing the plan.

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

HOWLERS

★ Trousers: An uncommon noun because it is singular on top and plural at the bottom.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Dress: Woman's constant endeavour to improve on her skin.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Hat: An article worn by men to conceal the shape of their heads.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Pyjamas: Garments that newly-weds place beside the bed in case of fire.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Lapel: The only tangible thing to be grasped in an argument.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— This is a large house.
— This is a small flat.

Hadha manzil kabir.
Hadhihi shuqqa saghira.

— This is a useful book.
— These are heavy bags.
— These are light clothes.
— These are dear friends.
— That man is poor.
— That woman is rich.
— Those men are Arabs.
— Those women are English.
— Is this lesson hard? No, it's so easy.

Hadha kitab mufeed.
Hadhihi kawn 'ib thaqila.
Hadhihi makabess khafifa.
Ha'olaa aad' 'kna 'a'zzaa.
Dhalilkar 'rajul fakir.
Tilka-mar'a ghaayya.
Ola'ikar 'rijal Arab.
Tilka-nisaa Ingleeziyat.
Hal hadhad 'darsa sa'b? La howa sahi jiddan.
— Are these dictionaries cheap? No, they're expensive.

Hal hadhihi qawamees rakissa? La, innaha ghaayla.
— What's this? This is a horse.
Ma hadha? Hadha hissan.
— What's that? That's a cow. Ma tilka? Tilka haqara.
— What are these? These are wild animals.

Ma hadhihi? Hadhihi bayawanaa muftarissa.
— What are those? Those are mad dogs.
Ma tilka? Tilka klab mas'oora.
— Is this watch water-proof?

Hal hadhihi'sa'a diddal-maa?

— Is that red car yours?

Hal hadhihi'sayyaral-hamra milakak?

TIME FOR FUN

★ FIRST: My grandfather was a wealthy man. When he died he left \$3,000,000.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

SECOND: so was my grandfather and even wealthier than yours. When he died, he left the whole world.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Are pikins small apples?
2. Is a pinnace a boat?
3. Do misogynists hate women?
4. Is stramonium a rare metal?
5. Is "bbis" the usual abbreviation for "barrels"?
6. Does the eating of certain fruits cause beri, beri?
7. Is a bibcock a game bird?
8. Are reptiles cold-blooded?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

YOUR CHARACTER IN FOCUS

Born on 5th June

- Very skillful and has intuition.
- Proficient in games.
- Likes oratory and eloquence in expressing himself.
- Has the capacity to pursue his objectives and knows very well how to plan for success.

- Sociable and has many acquaintances.
- Fond of variety and change and trips.
- Whatever may be the situation he has the power to get out of it.
- Though nervous, he is shrewd, amiable and adaptable.
- Likes family life and children.
- His pleasures are mainly mental.

PUZZLES

(A) In the list of words below, a number of letters are missing. These are indicated by asterisks. Each group of missing letters is the name of an animal. Can you find the animal names that will complete the words?

- (1) EDU ★ ★ ★ ION
- (2) PY ★ ★ ★ ID
- (3) P ★ ★ ★ AGE
- (4) BIL ★ ★ ★ AIRE
- (5) C ★ ★ ★ ★ ER

(B) Where does 13 fit into the following pattern?

1 2 6 10
4 5 9
3 7 8
11 12

Linda Gray surrounded by young girls on Models, Inc.

By Lynn Elber
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — How does 53-year-old Linda Gray compete with the flock of sweet young things in Models Inc? She keeps her clothes on and keeps matters in perspective, the actress says.

"I look at their bodies and their faces and think, 'Thank God it's you and not me that has to wear those things with the bare midriffs,'" says Gray, who stars as a modelling agency owner in the New Fox series.

Besides, her character — dynamic businesswoman Hillary Michaels — wouldn't indulge in such fashion giddiness, Gray says.

"She doesn't have time for all that stuff," she says. "Let kids wear the skimpy clothes and hang out on the beach. I will be there in my suit, carrying my big L.A. bag filled with my cellular phone and filofax."

To her dismay, even a close friend questioned Gray's willingness to wade

into a series awash with beauties in their tense and early 20s.

"My girlfriend said, 'how do you have the guts to go in front of the camera with these girls?' I looked at her and thought, 'what kind of a statement is that?'"

"I said, 'you've got to be kidding.' I respect them, I admire their bodies and faces, but I'm holding my own. I'm doing OK."

Aaron Spelling, executive producer of Models Inc., a spinoff of his Melrose Place, agrees, Gray's sexy beauty is part of the reason he cast her, he says.

"We wanted to find a woman who could fall in love, have romance. The cliché that women over 40 don't make love or fall in love is a bunch of trash," Spelling says.

Gray "is perfect for the role and she will have romantic interests."

In an early episode, Spelling made good on that promise: Sparks and a kiss passed between Gray and a police detec-

tive investigating the death of one of her models.

In real life, the single actress is focusing on family, not romance. One of the reasons she was glad to get back into a series — after 11 years on another nighttime soap, Dallas — was to stay close to home.

Her parents, two grown children and a grandchild live in southern California, and Gray has a house in the Los Angeles area. But a series of made-for-TV movies kept her on the road for much of last year.

"The movies allowed me to create a role, a character, and be done with it in a month," she says. "But the downside was those movies did not film in Los Angeles. The bad news was that I was in hotels for seven months in various cities."

She developed a wish list. "I wanted to work, work close by, and I wanted to wake up in my own bed every morning. And I got everything I wanted."

"I have my family near me, and that's the most

important grounding and centering area of my life."

Gray first read about the part of Hillary in a tabloid magazine while with her grandchild in a doctor's waiting room. A brief item mentioned the name of several actresses. Gray's peers, being considered for the role.

"I called my agent and he said, 'hey, we're all over it,'" Gray recounts, her skepticism showing. A few days later, after a brief meeting with Spelling and other Models producers, she had the role.

Hillary was introduced on Melrose Place as the estranged mother of that series' scheming vamp, Amanda, played by Heather Locklear. As initially conceived, Hillary had a tougher edge, says Gray, a model herself before turning to acting.

"Aaron and everybody else wanted her to be the bitch, in capital letters," she says. "But then they realized at this stage in a woman's life you don't have to do that. You're hopefully more rounded... and life itself kind of mel-

lows you.

"I said I want her to have a conscience, a heart, vulnerability. I want her to be feisty, funny, outrageous at times, and nasty when she has to be nasty."

As Sue Ellen Ewing, and oilman's trophy wife on Dallas, Gray's look was that of a pampered creature of the excessive '80s. She's adopted a far different style for Models.

"The jewellery is minimal. I wear a watch and small earrings. And the suits are very nice, but they're very businesslike," she says. "I'm wearing Richard Tyler, Donna Karan, Calvin Klein. And my hair is simple. A businesswoman doesn't have time to fuss."

Gray wasn't constrained by expectations about how older women should or shouldn't look.

"I didn't go dowdy. I didn't go matronly," she says. "It's sort of hip, cool; a businesswoman for the '90s."

That's how the tenacious Gray sees herself: An actress for the '90s —



Linda Gray in Dallas

and beyond.

"I could have done Dallas and said that's it," she says. "I think a lot of

people get caught in that and disposed of. It's like you've had your 15 minutes of fame."

"I think 'how dare anyone say you're finished.' My two great buzzwords are: 'Watch me.'"

Healing Vietnam-American wounds

By Denis D. Gray
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — A Hollywood actress who once starred in martial arts movies has made an acclaimed film that seeks to close the wounds Vietnamese and Americans still carry from the Vietnam War.

Rather than feature battlefield action and political machinations, From Hollywood To Hanoi focuses on filmmaker Tiana Alexandra herself, who left Vietnam as a child, drifted to Hollywood and returned to her homeland six years ago to find her roots.

The documentary mixes interviews with senior

Communist leaders and Gen. William Westmoreland, who commanded U.S. troops during the war, with scenes of daily Vietnamese life and Tiana's reflections on her emotional homecoming. There are even cuts from her corny B-movies.

"My mission, if you will, is to build this bridge between two cultures, my two selves," says the filmmaker, who calls herself Tiana and prefers not to use her last name. "I want to tell both sides: 'the war is over.'"

The film, which officially premieres in Los Angeles in August, already has won several awards at film festivals and rave reviews from cri-

tics. It also was screened to U.S. congressmen with an interest in Vietnam.

But Communist officials have complained about scenes showing Vietnamese mistreating Americans, while the anti-Communist Vietnamese in the United States have accused the filmmaker of using actress rather than real survivors of the massacre of Vietnamese villagers by U.S. troops at My Lai.

One of the staunchest anti-Communists, Tiana says, is her own father who still flies the flag of the fallen South Vietnamese government at his home in San Jose, Calif.

He served that govern-

ment before seeking exile in the United States in 1966, and fears assassination if he returned to Vietnam.

Tiana, 32, said in an interview that her documentary is a "letter," or a "fax" to her father to return to Vietnam and let go of some of the prejudices he and many Americans have about the country.

As an Asian-American who grew up during the Vietnam War, Tiana — whose Vietnamese name is Du Thi Than Nga — is sensitive to prejudice and racism.

"When I was a child, some would tell me: 'your people are kill our boys. What are you? A slant-

eyed Commie? A VC? A gook?'" she recalled. "To avoid all this my younger sister told everybody she was Japanese."

Today, Tiana says such racist attitudes are perpetuated by Hollywood, with such movies as Sylvester Stallone's Rambo, and others about America's missing in action starring Chuck Norris.

"I'm critical of my own industry. There's been this policy in Hollywood to make money at any cost," she said.

She said some movies depict almost every Vietnamese as "an evil Viet Man Chu only out to eat our boys."

But she has high praise

for filmmaker Oliver Stone who has tried to make changes with such movies as Platoon. Born On The Fourth Of July and the recent Heaven And Earth. Stone is executive producer of Tiana's documentary.

Tiana said her plans include a television miniseries called The War Is Over: A New Vietnam, and the creation of two film art schools for underprivileged children in Vietnam.

In December, she hopes to stage a cultural festival in Hanoi, during which Hollywood To Hanoi will be shown publicly. She said American politicians and artists will be invited to attend.



Tiana Alexandra

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 25

7:15 Battlestar Galactica

8:30 Heart Of Courage

9:10 Murder She Wrote

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Friday, Aug. 26

8:30 The Munsters Today

9:10 E.N.G.

Hero

Jake plays a heroic act. Is he going to be praised by his boss?

10:00 News In English

10:20 Emile

Emile goes ahead with her plans to marry Henry although, deep inside, she is waiting to hear from Evlin.

Saturday, Aug. 27

8:30 Movies, Games And Videos

9:30 The Campbells

Life By The Sword

A fencing match is held by Dr. Campbell and Simms.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Sunday, Aug. 28

8:30 Step By Step

Thirteen With A Bullet

Mark celebrates his thirteenth birthday — a day he gets one big disappointment.

9:10 Quantum Leap

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snow River

Luke continues his struggle; this time to own a home and a horse.

Monday, Aug. 29

7:15 Black Beauty

8:30 Home Free

9:10 Galactic Odyssey

10:00 News In English

10:20 Matrix

Moths To A Flame

A man, caught in a love triangle, is about to kill his wife.

Tuesday, Aug. 30

7:30 Innovations

8:30 Hollywood Stunt Makers

9:10 The Commish

Return To The Screen Door

The commissioner helps a battered woman.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Rose Against The Odds

Wednesday, Aug. 31

8:30 Bob

9:10 The Nature Of Things

10:00 News In English

10:20 Nanny

11:00 Poldark

Ross is behind the provocative attempts to spread the principles of the French Revolution.

Do computer images threaten movie jobs?

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tom Hanks shakes hands with John F. Kennedy. A Florida causeway is destroyed by an explosion. Two current hit movies feature those startling scenes, both created by a computer.

As seen in Forrest Gump and True Lies, such innovations have prompted some to worry that computers may play a major role in future filmmaking, perhaps endangering the livelihood of stunt players and other performers.

Stop worrying, advises a cross section of industry folks. If anything, they say, computers may supply work. Digital Pictures Inc., for example, hired 45 stunt players from the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) for a one-hour, action-packed interactive video, Ground Zero Texas.

Still, veteran stuntman and director Terry Leonard takes a cautious view. In New York for Die Hard III, he planned a crash scene on city streets that he figured would require 15 stuntmen. By using optical effects and a split screen, he hired only five.

Leonard, whose credits include Apocalypse Now, Romancing the Stone, The Fugitive (the train crash) and Maverick (the stagecoach chase), believes that com-

puter imaging "will affect a lot of things in filmmaking as we know it today."

"I'm afraid the stuntman entering the business today is not going to find it as lucrative as in the past," he said. "In fact, raising horses is looking more attractive to me than staging stunts, much as I love it. As soon as my boys get out of high school, I may start slowing down."

Donna Keegan, who doubled for Jamie Lee Curtis in the limo-helicopter stunt in True Lies, serves as chairwoman for the SAG's stunt and safety committee, and says computers should concern everyone.

"Look how factory jobs have been lost because of computers," she said. "There is fear among stunt people, but we are in constant negotiations to make sure they are protected."

"Computer imaging is hot today, but I think the situation will be much like the music industry. Twenty years ago, everything was synthesized music. That lasted three to five years until people decided the ear doesn't want totally perfect sound. They would rather hear real music instead of max headroom."

Keegan cited an example of how computers have made stunts safer: "I did a 320-foot (97-metre) fall for Jamie in Mother's Boys. I used a

'descender' (cable) that dropped me 200 feet (61 metres) and then slowly stopped my fall. I felt it, but it was more like getting out of bed in the morning. Later, the cable was erased from the film by computer."

Linda Fettes, who underwent 3½ hours of makeup for stunts as the carwoman in Star Trek V, said that some members of the Stuntwoman's Association have been called for interactive videos.

"So far, computers haven't worked against us," she said. "They're not a great concern for us. We're women, so that automatically makes us a minority, and we're constantly fighting that."

Bryan Unger of the Directors Guild of America monitors changing technology. "In the short term, we see no threat to our members," he said.

"Directors still oversee special effects, no matter how they are created. We want to make sure our directors are aware of the latest developments, and we have been meeting with the various manufacturers."

"I don't think computer imaging will hurt us in the long run," said Max Kleven, who has directed action for Batman Returns, the Back To The Future trilogy, Who Framed Roger Rabbit and Robin Hood, Prince Of Thieves.

"The business is changing. Now, you can stage a

car turnover in the desert and put it on a New York street. You can make a big bang by computer, whereas doing it live would be too expensive. If it draws people in the theatre, that's good. Any time an action picture is a success, it helps the business."

Meanwhile, SAG is closely monitoring the situation, and remains concerned.

"But we cannot foresee a situation where actors will be reproduced by computers," a SAG spokesman said. "Filmmakers will still depend on performers to give movies the sense of depth, movement and human emotion. You can never duplicate the human soul."

In Terminator II, for example, Robert Patrick was converted into an automaton. The actor was filmed in the action, then his image was copied on computers using the rotochrome process.

The computer revolution is not the first new technology that has caused concern in the film industry. When sound was introduced in the late 1920s, many industry leaders predicted it was impractical. It was too expensive to convert studios and equip theatres, they said.

The great Irving Thalberg predicted: "Sound will be an important adjunct to the industry, but it won't replace the silent movie."

Africans slowly breaking AIDS taboo

By Amba Dadson

The Associated Press
ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — When Juliana Gbami's husband died three years ago, doctors told her the cause was kidney failure. Just kidney failure.

Three months later, when Gbami was stricken with recurring fevers, diarrhoea and chronic fatigue, they said he'd really had AIDS. And now, so did she.

"And that's when I collapsed and really fell ill," said the Ivorian, a retired social worker.

Even while it consumes the continent, many people in Africa can't bring themselves to even mention AIDS. Experts say that's one of the reasons the deadly disease is spreading.

Ms. Gbami is a member

of something almost unheard of in Africa: An AIDS support group dedicated to breaking the fatal taboo of silence.

"It started very, very tentatively," said Dr. Marc Aguirre, an American doctor at the Medical and Social Assistance Centre, a counselling centre financed by the Church of Christ.

"A lot of these people are very reticent. But we basically had a party and got people talking about themselves."

That is rare indeed in Africa, which accounts for 10 million of the world's 16 million infections of HIV, the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Experts say a cultural modesty and deep reluctance to be the bearer of bad news — even among some doctors — is a powerful social force.

"Africans with AIDS do not go and see their doctors, because of our traditional sense of modesty and shame," said Yaya Diallo, a Senegalese sociologist at the University of Dakar.

"They prefer to 'leave it to God' to decide their fate and try traditional medicine."

Ms. Gbami said she had to fight to get her doctor to admit that her husband had AIDS. The doctor, an old friend of her husband's, never could face her, she said. Instead, he sent two other doctors to take her into a private room and break the news.

The support group, which began meeting weekly in July, represents a quiet revolution that has even compelled some people to become community awareness crusaders.

"I want to tell people that with HIV you can still live. It is not the end of the world," said Etienne Tape, who organised the group he dubbed "The Friends Club."

"When you mention AIDS, everyone is afraid," said Tapie, 28, who was diagnosed as HIV-positive in March.

"No one even wants to touch you. I have friends like me who have been chased out of their houses, who are all alone."

Not here, club meetings, which draw 35 to 40 people are lively, positive, animated. The pretty

teenage girl, the soft-spoken Gbami, the lanky father of four — all are either carriers of HIV or sufferers of its most advanced ravages.

Comfortable chairs are arranged in a circle. A stereo belts out pop hits. The unusually frank and intimate chat ranges from health issues to politics to the deeply devastating emotional toll the disease has taken.

"There's such a need for people to open up and talk to someone. That is

all we aim to provide, really," said Dr. Aguirre. The Ivory Coast, with 18,670 documented AIDS cases out of a population of 13 million, is West Africa's most heavily affected country. The disease is the leading cause of death of adult men and the second-leading cause of death among women, following childbirth.

Tall, handsome, fashionably dressed with a blonde streak dyed into a hip-hop haircut, Tape is a big fan of American pop culture and the National Basketball Association.

Though he took the news of his disease hard, he also took inspiration from his idol, retired NBA star Earvin "Magic" Johnson, who has the AIDS virus but still has a robust life.

Tape doesn't know from who he contracted the virus, but admits to a "rather wild life" of one-night stands and random sex.

After the initial shock of the positive blood test,

Tape devoured what literature he could find about the disease and began interviewing doctors at the Medical and Social Assistance Clinic.

He heard about the Nairobi, Kenya-based African network of people living with HIV and visited one of their meetings. Then he helped start the friends club.

"I want to be a symbol for young people with AIDS in Ivory Coast," he said. "I dress up smartly and hold my head high."

'Start early to stop children from smoking'

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Parents who want to keep their children from using tobacco should begin their efforts as soon as kindergarten, the American Heart Association says.

"We can show that we already have fixed smokers by the third grade," said Dr. Gerald S. Berenson, who led a session on tobacco at the association's first children's heart health conference.

"And we joke about it (not being younger) because the second-graders can't read the questionnaire," he added.

Dr. Berenson is the principal investigator of the Bogalusa Heart Study, which has been tracking thousands of children's heart risks from the time they were born 20 years ago in Bogalusa, La.

The Heart Association planned to release its first scientific statement on smoking and children's health.

In February, a U.S. Surgeon General's report

called smoking an adolescent addiction. The report estimated that 13 per cent of 12- to 18-year-olds — 3.1 million youngsters — smoke cigarettes, and that 1 million use snuff or chewing tobacco.

Dr. Samuel S. Gidding, who co-chaired the smoking session, said youngsters need to be helped even before birth.

"We need to work on the mothers to not smoke, so either as fetuses or as young children, they don't get the passive smoke," he said.

For older children, "we need to create a climate that counteracts the large and pervasive effects of advertising by the tobacco industry," said Dr. Gidding, director of preventive cardiology at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

The tobacco industry spent \$5.23 billion on advertising in 1992, according to the latest federal trade commission figures, said Dr. Michael Eriksen, director of the Office on Smoking and

Health at the Federal Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

That was more than triple the CDC's entire budget that year.

"It's mind-boggling. The numbers are difficult to grasp," Dr. Eriksen said.

Tobacco companies heatedly deny that their advertising targets children. An American Medical Association study, however, showed that sales of Camel cigarettes to children increased from \$6 million to \$476 million in the four years after "Joe Camel" cartoon ads were introduced.

Dr. Berenson, director of the Tulane Centre for Cardiovascular Health in New Orleans, said preventing heart disease in future generations will require educating children in kindergarten and earlier against smoking.

"We'd like to get it down to head start," he said, referring to the federally funded preschool programme for

poor youngsters.

The smoking rate seems to have levelled off in teens, but the use of smokeless tobacco is rising, said Steven Y. Sussman, an associate professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California.

Unfortunately, anti-smoking efforts probably boost the use of smokeless tobacco, which many people mistakenly believe is less harmful, he said.

Last year, Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders warned that increasing use of smokeless tobacco among youths may foreshadow an epidemic of oral cancer. Ms. Elders said that chewing tobacco, like cigarettes, speeds the heartbeat, raises blood pressure and promotes damage to arteries.

Researchers have linked tobacco smoke to heart disease as well as lung and other cancers, emphysema, asthma and other diseases. They have blamed it for almost 500,000 premature deaths a year.

Map of the human genome

By Sylviane Robinet

After five years of uninterrupted research, three French geneticists from the "Genethon" Laboratory, Professor Daniel Cohen, Dr. Ilya Chumakov and Dr. Jean Weissenbach, have succeeded in establishing the "physical map" of 90 per cent of the human genome. Although it is, as yet, incomplete, this map is an extremely precious tool for researchers all over the world. It will make it possible to very quickly identify a large number of genes responsible for hereditary diseases.

PARIS — This map, drawn up by French geneticists, is one of the major objectives of the world "Human Genome" programme, launched in 1990 by American and European researchers which aims to decrypt the 3.5 billion elements of our DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid).

The physical map of the genome is presented in the form of 33,000 little tubes, each one containing a portion of DNA. These tubes have been numbered and arranged according to the position held by each fragment in the chromosomes. In order to obtain this result, the researchers of the Genethon set about a global exploration of our genetic heritage. First of all, they took DNA from ten cells which they cut up into thousands of pieces. Each fragment was then duplicated millions of times through a complex cloning mechanism and, after minutely re-cutting the pieces with the help of powerful computers, their order was resequenced.

Our genetic heritage is borne by 23 pairs of homologous chromosomes which we inherited from our parents (in each pair one chromosome is provided by the mother and the other by the father). These chromosomes are made up of DNA. They contain all the biological instructions enabling the original cell, the fertilised ovum, to divide up into several billion cells. The latter, through a process known as differentiation, will diversify and form our tissues (liver, skin and muscles). The DNA is a long molecule made of a chain of four fundamental sub-units, called bases and symbolised by the four letters A, T, G and C, respectively for adenine, thymine, guanine and cytosine.

In DNA, these four bases follow on one another in a very precise and determining order, as this arrangement alone is a message. Our genome thus contains several thousand DNA sequences crammed with some 5,000 bases having a key function. These are our genes, those units of information which transmit the physical characteristics proper to a species, from one generation to another, as well as some family resemblances such as the colour of the eyes and the hair,

height, etc.

Each gene makes a specific protein operate, carrying out an essential function in the tissues. The 100,000 active genes borne by the chromosomes barely represent 5 per cent of the DNA contained in each of our cells. Research is, at present, being carried out to understand the true rôle of the 95 per cent of remaining DNA.

When the genetic heritage is transmitted from the parents to their children, certain anomalies ("mutations") can modify the order of the bases (a base being replaced by another one, or the absence of one or several bases). These mutations are harmless when the message remains comprehensible and there will simply be, for instance, a change in the hair colour. On the other hand, they are extremely serious if they make the message incoherent. The gene then influences an abnormal or non-existent protein. That is when genetic disease appears.

Today, there are more than 4,000 known hereditary diseases. They are responsible for 30 per cent of infant mortality and 25 per cent handicaps. In order to treat these diseases, the genes involved first have to be located and their function known, that is to say the proteins on which they act and the mechanisms regulating them. It is only after that, that therapeutic methods can be developed. This apparently simple procedure is, in fact, extremely long and fastidious. It amounts to discovering, in a necklace made up of 3.5 billion beads wrapped around itself, the one which does not conform to the others.

Indeed, in the cells, the DNA presents itself in the form of a very confused and almost impenetrable threadlike network. When a researcher attempts to locate a faulty gene, he has to break the DNA into thousands of pieces in order to make it accessible, and then, with the help of a genetic marker (a gene which is known and transmitted at the same time as the disease and which, following a basic law of genetics, must be situated in the same chromosome region as the gene being sought), he will be able to identify the



Professor Daniel Cohen presents the physical map of 90 per cent of the human genome

fragment containing the mutation. Once he has achieved this, he still has to put all the pieces back in the right order.

The physical map of the human genome will make it possible to discover the genes responsible for diseases such as epilepsy, diabetes, asthma and muscular dystrophy far more quickly, because it presents the human DNA already cut up into tiny fragments which bear markers and are catalogued and ordered. But, as Professor Cohen, Dr. Chumakov and Dr. Weissenbach point out, "this map covers just over 90

per cent of the genome. It is not definitive. It contains a certain percentage of errors. It is incomplete in places. In short, it is not perfect. It is a first generation map but it should prove immediately useful to many researchers."

The Genethon is a laboratory financed by donations from French television viewers. It is not a commercial enterprise. That is one of the reasons why these three researchers have decided to make their results freely available to the international scientific community — L'Actualite En France.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

FAR FROM WAY OUT
By James and Phyllis Barrick

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Diagramless 18 x 18, By Harold B. Counts

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Diagramless 18 x 18, By Harold B. Counts

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Features

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, AUGUST 25-26, 1994 7

Israel starts handing over W. Bank

(Continued from page 1)

"probably" initial the deal with Gen. Rothschild. It will be signed on Sunday in Erez in the autonomous Gaza Strip on the border with Israel, he added.

The deal, after six weeks of talks, will mark the start of the second phase of self-rule launched in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho with the signing of the autonomy accord on May 4.

Dr. Shalhoub welcomed the fact that the deal would be initiated on the same day that Israel handed over control of education to Palestinians in the Ramallah area of the West Bank.

Palestinian Deputy Education Minister Naim Abu Hammur, and the town's Israeli military governor, Colonel Yoni Figel, earlier signed a document sealing the handover at the self-rule authority's education ministry.

But Abu Hammur has said that many problems remained and the Palestinians lacked materials, schools and teachers.

"All the donor countries should stand beside us to give us the opportunity to run the education system (...)" he said.

Officers from the Israeli military administration and officials from the Palestinian education ministry witnessed the signing.

"I can now affirm that the next school year in the West Bank will be Palestinian," Mr. Abu Hammur said.

Before the end of the month, Israel is to hand over responsibility for education in all West Bank towns, in time for the start of the new school year on Sept. 1.

The 1993 education budget was \$43 million, said Elise

Shazar, an Israeli spokesman.

"Israel will pay the teachers' salaries for September and after that it is up to the Palestinian authority to do it," she added.

Israeli soldiers handed over archives and computer data on education in Ramallah to Adel Aj Halak, the Palestinian education chief in the town.

Ramallah has 150 schools, including 40 private ones, with 1,200 teachers and 43,000 pupils.

The entire West Bank has 1,357 schools, with 11,000 teachers for the 355,000 pupils. Government schools, run by the Israeli administration, account for two-thirds of them.

About 500 new schools are needed in the West Bank and Gaza to accommodate the children of Palestinian refugees returning to the territories, the new Palestinian education ministry says.

Israel is due to hand over control of education by Aug. 29 in all West Bank towns, including Nablus, Qalqilya, Tulkarm, Bethlehem and Hebron.

But young Palestinians will follow the same courses set by the Israeli authorities last year, learning about the history of the West Bank under Jordanian rule and the Gaza Strip under Egyptian administration.

Only in September 1995 will new textbooks be ready on the history of Palestine, senior Palestinian education official Abdullah Abdul Minah said.

But as Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said last week, "for the first time in history it will be the Palestinians who will be responsible for their own children, their own education."

Signs emerge of Iraqi return

(Continued from page 12)

an, Pakistani, Italian and Spanish businesses and semi-governmental delegations are seen more frequently in Baghdad. Many of them lost large markets and trading partners when Iraq was bombed into submission and its borders were closed to trade by the U.S.-led allies and the United Nations.

According to a senior member of the European Commission in Brussels, Europeans question whether the U.S. insistence that sanctions against Iraq not be softened may be due to "strategic and economic" rather than "security" reasons.

"It is a question we must raise. We suspect that the U.S. will put a heavy price on its 'yes' vote to lift sanctions," said a European diplomat. That price, many European officials suspect, may be "exclusive trade terms," said the diplomat.

The Europeans say that much like what happened in post-war Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the "big deals will all go to the Americans — that's one price for lifting sanctions."

But Iraqi officials say that trade conditions are only one item on a long list of terms that are being talked about.

"Now there are suggestions that Iraq take some (up to 150,000) of the Palestinian refugees from Lebanon and settle them permanently in Iraq," said one official.

While Jordanian and foreign sources close to the multilateral refugee talks say they know "nothing of this," Iraqi sources say that the possibility of resettling Palestinian refugees in Iraq is "being floated."

Less than 50,000 Palestinians lived in Iraq since 1948. Most of these were given Iraqi nationality. Demographers say because most Palestinians are either Sunni Muslims or Christians, their presence in Iraq is favourable for the traditional Sunni leadership of the country.

In Lebanon, the largely Muslim Palestinian population would further strain the delicate balance between religious groups and sects. Even if some were given Lebanese nationality not all 300,000 are expected to stay in Lebanon.

The U.S. and Israel want at least some of the Palestinians in Lebanon to be settled in Iraq because it is easier, diplomats said.

Iraq oil has been trickling to several neighbouring countries. Both Iran and Turkey are reportedly receiving Iraqi oil at discount prices, and unofficial trade through the Kurdish north and the Shiite south

continues. The only U.N. approved transfer of oil from Iraq is to Jordan.

U.S. officials have said that the low price of oil has prevented its Gulf allies, such as Saudi Arabia, from approving Iraq's re-entry into the oil markets.

Representatives of European governments have even linked the lifting of the oil embargo to the political situation in Algeria.

"If and when Algeria falls to the fundamentalists, the Algerian oil market will be probably be embargoed and then we will have to open up Iraq again," said a high-ranking member of a European diplomatic mission in Amman.

Some Asian officials have reportedly urged the Iraqi government to "opt for the Iranian alternative", by allying itself to the country with which it was at war for eight years.

"Through Iran they can shift anything they want to the international market," said one Asian diplomat close to Baghdad.

Washington insiders believe that Iran and Iraq are now cooperating in new ways as a result of the embargo against Iraq. Iraq would pool material and know-how to rebuild both Iraq's and Iran's weapons systems, rendering disarmament insignificant.

While there are long standing Iraqi trade relations with both Tehran and Ankara, most observers argue that Baghdad has always looked more to the West in its trade relations and diplomatic endeavours.

"The Europeans and Asian delegations that have been visiting Iraq all have something on their agenda and to their agenda," said an analyst.

According to Washington insiders, the U.S. position on Iraq has not changed since Bill Clinton took office. They say that Mr. Clinton's position towards Iraq may even get tougher. Every time the U.S. president makes an anti-Saddam statement his ratings in the popularity polls go up slightly, they say.

"The U.S. still sends very conflicting signals to Iraq," said the Iraqi official.

On Aug. 5, Mr. Clinton, addressing Congress on Iraq, compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms, accused Iraq of sponsoring acts of terror against U.N. and humanitarian workers.

"Reliable reports have indicated that the government of Iraq is offering reward money for terrorist acts against the U.N. and humanitarian relief workers in Iraq," he said. Because of such conduct, said Mr. Clinton, the U.S. intended to continue supporting sanctions.



A decision by former South African President F. W. de Klerk to withdraw from Mr. Mandela's government could encourage (white) extremists to launch a violent campaign against black majority rule (AFP photo)

White right's fangs drawn in Mandela's S. Africa

By David Tucker
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — President Nelson Mandela's three-month-old government has successfully drawn the fangs of South Africa's hardline right, but white power could still threaten the new order.

Fears of a violent white backlash — and even a race war — were fuelled ahead of South Africa's first all-race elections in April by a bombing blitz that killed at least 20 people. But the threat from far-right whites has subsided since then.

"I think large numbers of people who are right-wingers are just basically facing up to the inevitable... there is a new government, an ANC-led government, in power... They realise there is nothing they can do," said Simon Baynam, an analyst at the Africa Institute think-tank.

"Their world hasn't collapsed since Mandela came to power. Most people's lives have not changed at all," said Mr. Baynam.

"(But) there are still some hardliners out there... There may very well be some extreme factions dreaming up plans to shoot Mandela or some of his ministers," he told Reuters.

Mr. Baynam said a single act of terror, similar to the 1993 assassination by right-wing whites of Communist Party chief Chris Hani, was a real possibility, although he believed swift police action against white bombers had largely neutralised the right-wing military machine.

He said the swift arrests of right-wingers detained following the pre-election bombings had been a major factor in the demise of the hardline right.

"The fact that police were so adept at picking up

these people showed the terrorist elements of the right wing how heavily they had been penetrated," said Mr. Baynam.

The inclusion in the new black-majority government of former army chief general Constand Viljoen's right-wing Freedom Front had been a masterstroke.

Mr. Baynam said right-wing Afrikaners, many of whom had pledged never to recognise Mr. Mandela's government, had a political voice through the front, which seeks a homeland for Afrikaners through evolution rather than revolution. Another post-election bonus was the decision of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, which boycotted the April elections, to talk to the government on the question of a homeland.

Robert Schrire, a political scientist at Cape Town University, said while

the threat of right-wing violence had all but ended, there was a danger of white industrial action.

"I think probably the greatest danger from the right wing would be through the (white) trade unions... a backlash against affirmative action in... government and the mining industry for instance," he told Reuters.

"White power isn't dead... but in terms of violence I think it's over."

Mr. Schrire said it was significant that Mr. Viljoen had been "brought into the system." The front, which fought the April elections on a platform of Afrikaner rights, has nine national parliamentary seats and is part of the national unity government.

"The (Viljoen) has taken the bite out of the right wing and (Eugene) Terre Blanche has been exposed as

a complete windbag," said Mr. Schrire, referring to the leader of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB).

Recent rallies by the neo-Nazi leader, who before the election warned South Africans of impending race war, have been poorly attended.

The AWB, whose insignia resembles a swastika, was humiliated in March when three of its members were shot dead by black police during a failed bid by the neo-Nazis to prop up the government of an apartheid-era black homeland.

Mr. Schrire said, however, there was a danger of a right-wing resurgence if ex-president F.W. de Klerk took the former ruling National Party (NP) out of the government.

"If there is a dramatic increase in racial tension. If the NP leave the government... these people (hard-

line right-wingers) will come back," he said, commenting on calls by hardliners in the party for the NP to move into opposition.

"It's ironic that De Klerk, perceived as a traitor by hardline Afrikaners, is now the brake on the right," Mr. Schrire said.

Jakkie Cilliers, director of the Institute for Defence Policy, said Mr. Mandela's government had proved effective in accommodating the right wing, but a hurdle remained at local level.

"In national terms the right wing is no longer a coherent threat."

"Whatever threat there is now comes from the poorer Afrikaner people... Those who have the most to lose through affirmative action and higher taxes and rates," said Mr. Cilliers.

"I still see a lot of turbulence at local level," he said.

Relief groups overwhelmed by emergencies

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

MASSAWA, Eritrea — Rusted airstrips. Antiquated ports. Impassable roads. Looted convoys. Millions of people waiting for food. Teeming masses of sick refugees. A shortage of money from weary donors.

These are the headaches international relief organisations face as they struggle with the effects of drought, famine, pestilence and civil war in 10 countries in the Horn of Africa.

"We are being overwhelmed by emergencies," said Broniek Szymski, director of the U.N. World Food Programme's emergency operations.

Only 36 per cent of the food needed in southern Sudan has been distributed because of a shortage of money to pay the \$4.5 million monthly cost of the airlift, the only means of delivering the food.

Vital shipments for Ethiopia and Eritrea cannot be unloaded quickly because the Red Sea ports of Massawa and Asab, now in Eritrea, don't have the capacity.

Massawa port can unload a maximum of only 1,500 tonnes of cargo a day with machinery that is more than 30 years old and keeps breaking down.

Bad roads and a shortage of trucks cause further delays. A warehouse built by the European Union is stuffed with 40,000 tonnes of food and more waits under tarpaulins outside.

"So far, we've gotten

away with it because of the drought. If it rains — and we hope it does — the food is exposed. So it's a no-win situation," said Lalit Godamunne, director of the World Food Programme in Eritrea.

The U.N. agency made an emergency appeal for \$300,000 to buy spare parts for Massawa port to increase its capacity to 1,800 tonnes a day and \$800,000 to raise Asab's capacity from 3,500 tonnes a day to 5,000. By the end of July, not a single donation had materialised.

For relief organisations, coping with emergencies and appealing for funds go hand-in-hand.

The World Food Programme still needs donors to finance 40 per cent of its emergency food programme in the Horn of Africa and 71 per cent of its non-food expenses, including transportation, logistics and monitoring distribution.

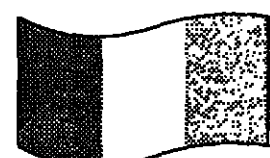
No longer do horrific images of victims of famine and natural disasters lead automatically to an outpouring of public donations, said William D. Novelli, executive vice president of the U.S. relief agency CARE.

"Now, there's a sense of helplessness or fatigue, so the horrors of Rwanda have not attracted private donor support," he said.

Even before the mass exodus of Rwandan refugees to Zaire in early July, CARE had spent \$1 million on the Rwandan crisis.

"We need to get the public to support the government's work."

Save water... every drop counts!



CMA

الخطوط الفرنسية المنتظمة

ممثلتها بوكليها العام

الشركة العالمية لخدمات الحاويات



ترفع أسمى آيات الشكر والامتنان

سيدة الرئيس الفرنسي

فرانسوا ميتران


الى مقام جلالة الملك

الحسين بن طلال المعظم

وسيادة رئيس الوزراء ووزير الخارجية ووزير النقل ووزير المالية على الجهود العظيمة التي بذلت من أجل رفع عمليات التفريغ عن ميناء العقبة.

علما بأن CMA ومنذ خمسة عشر عاما قد واظبت على وتيرة رحلاتها المنتظمة والمباشرة الى العقبة بواقع ثلاث رحلات شهريا وستستمر CMA في تقديم خدماتها لنسوق الأردن بذات الروح المتميزة.

 COMPAGNIE MARITIME D'AFFRETTMENT

THE SPIRIT OF IMAGINATION

Hariri guiding Lebanon to boom times, Barings says

LONDON (R) — A free market, free trade, and a free currency — Lebanon has all the right policies to attract big international investment. All it lacks, according to Barings Securities, is the physical and institutional framework.

"Lebanon looks set to become a highly lucrative portfolio-investment destination," analyst Hania Farhan said.

"It may not become the regional hub it was before the war (from 1975) because of the globalisation of markets and advances made by other Arab countries, but it has great potential to play a major regional role. Over the next decade it should boom," she added.

The London investment house's report issued this week said the cornerstone of Lebanon's rebirth in the 1989 Taif agreement, and the catalyst for reform is the personality and ability of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

"This government, more than any other in recent years, has demonstrated an ability to maintain some order and unity of purpose in the Lebanese drive for reconstruction, reform and revival," Ms. Farhan said in the report.

She acknowledges dissent, however, about Mr. Hariri's style. He is accused variously of running the country like one of his corporations and of too close a tie with neighbouring Syria.

But its rebuilding is likely to catapult Lebanon back into world financial markets and establish it as a regional business services centre, focusing on trade rather than production.

Ms. Farhan said international investors have been watching with increasing interest as Lebanon hauled inflation down to around 15 per cent now from 131 per cent in 1992, successfully fought off creeping "dollarisation" in the economy, halted a turn on the lira, cut its budget deficit and its foreign debt to GNP ratio.

"The IFC (International Finance Corporation) is said to be considering a Levant fund, which will be the first in the region," noted Ms. Farhan. "A number of major financial institutions are positioning themselves for when the market comes on stream."

The IFC confirmed it was "discussing structuring a fund with various sponsors." It will be launched in the next year.

However, Barings warned that Lebanon is still relatively high risk. Concerns centre on the presence of 35,000 Syrian troops there, the flourishing pro-Iranian Hizbollah militia (which now holds eight seats in the 128-seat parliament) and the fragility of the whole Middle East peace process.

Foreign aid has been limited, Ms. Farhan said, "because of strong regional and international competition for such funds."

"Donor commitments for the next three years do not exceed \$1.6 billion in the form of soft loans and grants, including \$175 million from the World Bank and \$389 million from Italy."

In the absence of real donor interest, Lebanon has turned to global markets. The float of Solidere, the joint stock company formed to rebuild Beirut, was initial-

ly capitalised at \$1.8 billion but it is now worth around \$5 billion. It was 42 per cent oversubscribed to its initial \$650 million cash offering.

The shares, now closed to non-Arab investors, may be accessible via options and mutual funds by November, Barings said.

Lebanon has no official credit rating from Standard Poors or Moodys but an imminent Eurobond issue, lead managed by Merrill Lynch and underwritten by Indosuez and Paribas, will test investor interest, Ms. Farhan said.

Under its 10-year Horizon 2000 reconstruction plan, Lebanon will be seeking a total \$18.4 billion (at current prices) from external and domestic sources and there will be plenty of openings for foreign direct or portfolio investment.

The government is also expected to target the wealth of "offshore" Lebanese, estimated by the central bank to be worth \$30-\$40 billion. Some \$4 billion has been retained over the past two years.

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Danish budget marks return to austerity

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Denmark is set to return to a period of financial rigour and controlled public spending after two years of expansionist policies aimed at relaunching the economy, according to the 1995 budget proposal presented Wednesday by Finance Minister Mogens Lyketoft.

The budget was presented a week ahead of schedule to end record turbulence on financial markets, unsure of the centre-left government's future policies, which led to a rise in interest rates.

"Economic recovery (4.6 per cent growth this year and a forecast three per cent growth for 1995) is well-rooted in Denmark, proving that our strategy to stimulate the economy bore fruit," Mr. Lyketoft said.

But despite this growth, the strongest since 1984, the budget deficit will stay high in 1995 at an estimated 45.3 billion kroner (\$7.46 billion) or 4.6 per cent of GNP, down

slightly from this year's 47.3 billion kroner deficit.

The conservative opposition led by the Liberal Party did not share the government's optimism, and calling the budget irresponsible.

"This deficit is too high. It should be cut by at least 10 billion kroner, as otherwise there are likely to be more interest rate rises — which could scupper stable and lasting economic growth," said former Liberal economy minister Anders Rogh Rasmussen.

But Mr. Lyketoft insisted the government was "on the right path" and he hoped to stabilise public spending, eliminate our foreign debt of 140 billion kroner (\$25 billion) and reach a balance by the year 2000.

He said the public spending deficit should drop to 30.4 billion kroner in 1995, or 3.3 per cent of GNP, very close to the standard set by the third phase of the European Union's economic and

monetary union, which sets public deficits at no more than three per cent of GNP.

In order to get there, the government coalition of Social-Democrats, Radicals, Centrist-Democrats and Christians has opted for a tight financial policy by the narrowly controlling public spending, which will be cut by 1.2 per cent to avoid the economy overheating, a shortage of manpower and an inflationary spiral, with inflation forecast to be no more than 2.2 per cent in 1995 against 2.1 per cent a year today.

"We must maintain the balance of payments surplus of 25 billion kroner in 1994 and 1995, improve our industrial competitiveness and contain inflation to around two per cent," the minister said.

Net public spending will amount to 392.58 billion kroner (\$64.8 billion), a drop of 4.9 billion kroner compared to the 1994 budget. Nearly half (47 per cent of

public spending will go on pensions, unemployment benefits, sick pay, public assistance and housing aid.

The social affairs ministry has the biggest budget, set at 99.665 billion kroner, followed by the labour ministry (41.2 billion), the interior ministry (36.3 billion), the education ministry (24.8 billion), and the defence ministry (15.1 billion kroner).

The cooperation ministry, which handles foreign aid, will get a 400 million kroner raise taking its budget to 9.2 billion. This corresponds to one per cent by the country's GNP.

Repayments of the state's internal and foreign debts will cost 60.2 billion kroner.

The government does not intend new taxes to try to absorb the budget deficit. Fiscal pressure, one of the highest in the world, will be eased, going from 49.3 per cent of GNP in 1994 to 49.1 per cent in 1995.

Haitian currency drops to record low against dollar

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Panic selling drove the battered Haitian currency to a record low Tuesday after the beleaguered central bank moved to keep the crippled economy limping along by banning dollar transactions and restricting credit.

Local radio announced that the Haitian gourd had fallen below the psychological barrier of 30 gourdes to the dollar.

Sidewalk money changers thronging the area known as Wall Street were selling the currency for as low as 24 to the dollar Tuesday. The gourd had been hovering at about 19 for several days.

Although the measures banning U.S. dollar denominated financial transactions and cutting bank lending were aimed at propping up the currency, they initially had the opposite effect.

"People are panicking because they don't know what's going on and they're switching their money to dollars," Keesner Pharell, an economic consultant to the central and private banks, told Reuters.

A government communiqué issued late Monday banned domestic financial transactions in U.S. dollars and said all prices must be posted in Haitian gourdes, which it reminded its citizens was the national currency.

The government said the decision was taken to stop the devaluation of the gourd, which is estimated to have lost 40 per cent of its value since July 1 and 42 per cent since the beginning of the year.

Monetary authorities Monday also ordered banks to cut back commercial lending in a bid to tighten money supply in an economy struggling with increased public spending and the drying up of export income.

The moves appeared to be an effort to allow public spending vital to the military-backed government to continue at the expense of banks and private business, which would be further hurt by the credit restrictions.

Haiti's economy has been ravaged by U.S.-led economic sanctions aimed at forcing Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras from power. The trade ban has stopped foreign trade and financial transactions, shut factories and businesses and sent fuel and food prices soaring.

Food prices have tripled while parts of the country dependent on diesel-powered electricity have not had electrical power for months. Haitians and Western aid workers report children are dying because country hospitals can no longer perform most operations.

Haitians, who despite the country's economic problems have not been through the kind of currency collapse and hyper-inflation seen in Latin America, have traditionally held assets to Haitian currency, economists say. But prices for cars and even houses have lately increasingly been advertised in U.S. dollars.

"What makes it painful is that Haitians are not used to this," said a Western economic analyst, referring to the fall of the currency and rampant inflation.

"That's why people now are so scared — this is like a psychological coup to them," Mr. Pharell said.

Colombo's new government halts privatisation

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka's new government Wednesday revoked plans by the previous administration to privatise three state-run enterprises in the construction sector, officials said.

The three firms had been turned into private companies ahead of selling off their controlling interests, but the new Housing and Construction Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva stopped the move, officials said.

The Building Materials Corporation, the Steel Corporation and the State Engineering Corporation will now remain within the public sector but action will be taken to improve their profitability, the minister told his staff Wednesday.

The new People's Alliance government, which groups communists and leftist parties, had pledged to follow free-market policies but at the same time emphasised the need for state intervention in crucial sectors of the economy.

An ambitious privatisation programme known by the official euphemism "people's privatisation" was launched by the right-wing United National Party (UNP) government which was voted out of power last week.

The new rate, which came despite the rouble's fall to new all-time lows around 2,190 to the dollar on the Russian interbank market, is effective immediately, a spokeswoman said.

The first rate cut was at the end of April.

Under Russia's methods of calculating interest rates the new rate is equivalent to just over 10 per cent a month, twice as much as recent monthly inflation rates

around five per cent. But economists expect inflation to rise as the year goes on because increased second-half government spending and big credits to ailing farms will boost money supply.

The government has promised end-1994 monthly inflation rates of seven to nine per cent.

Lower money market interest rates have already had an impact on Russia's tiny currency markets, with customers dumping roubles for dollars due to lower rouble yields.

Turnover on the Moscow interbank currency exchange reached a record \$165.45 million Wednesday and the central bank sold \$20 million during the trading session to help bridge a big gap between supply and demand.

Russia cuts interest rates despite rouble slide

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's central bank said Wednesday it was cutting its three-month refinancing rate to 130 per cent from 150 per cent, the second rate cut this month and the seventh this year.

The new rate, which came despite the rouble's fall to new all-time lows around 2,190 to the dollar on the Russian interbank market, is effective immediately, a spokeswoman said.

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Horoscope

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 25, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Taurus Moon squares both Neptune and Uranus in the A.M. creating obsessions with the unusual and the unconventional. Communications with others is difficult as people are restless, irritable and stubborn.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Extend your interests so you can gain more profits in the future. Be less demanding of your family members. Express happiness.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take the right steps to improve your financial position. A new project needs more study before going ahead with it for best results.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Schedule your activities wisely so you get maximum use of your time. Be sure to use extreme caution in motion today.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can now understand how to improve your financial position so don't waste valuable time on trivial matters.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Go after your finest personal aims and you can easily gain them. Sideload a foe who could spoil your happiness with your loved ones.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study your ambitions well now and don't confide in

Horoscope

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 26, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good day to follow every rule and regulation that applies to you, even though some may seem unfair and unproductive. Despite some stresses you have set in toward the end of this week, you can still accomplish your goals.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Morning is fine for studying new outlets through which to expand. A direct course is the best to follow at this time for best results.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Use an improved method when finances are concerned and gain benefits. Take treatments to improve your appearance and vitality.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Come to the right decision concerning relations with associates. Be sure to spend your money wisely today so you will have some in reserve.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get your tasks completed early in the day so you'll have more time for social activities later. Use care in motion today.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a time to be calm while going after a personal aim. Take constructive steps to improve the quality of life for yourself and loved ones.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study your ambitions well now and don't confide in

Horoscope

others. Show more affection for your mate. Many benefits can come now.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Go after personal aims with more enthusiasm and effort and you can easily gain them. Be alert at all times today for trouble.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are now able to get the backing you need from a higher-up for a new project. Be sure to keep promises you've made to friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can make a good impression on others by showing you are honest and decent. Relax at home tonight with close friends and loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be more objective in dealing with others where business matters are concerned or you could jeopardise your security.

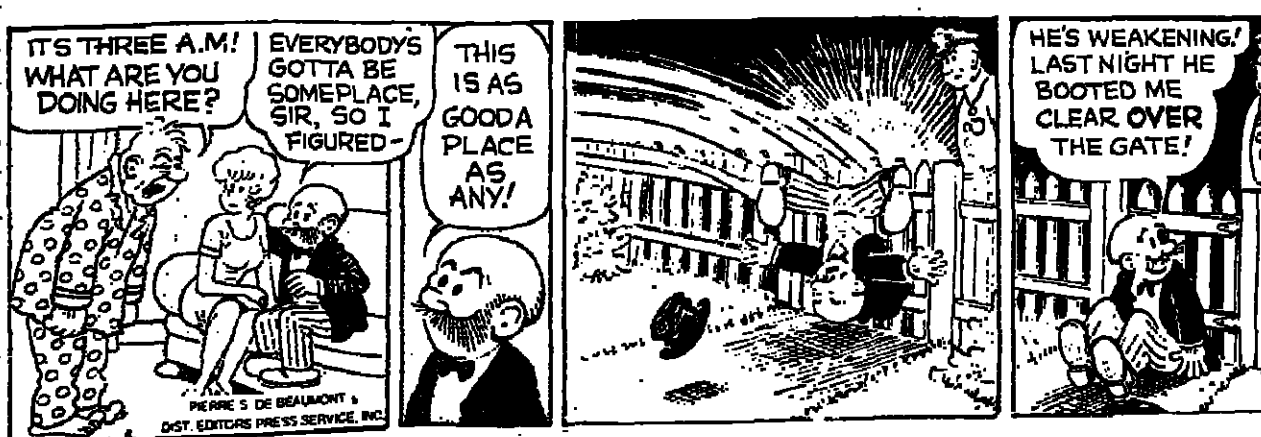
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be sure to keep the promises made to family members. Come to a better accord with associates. Think constructively about all matters.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Go after your aims in a positive manner and get excellent results. Contact loyal friends who can be helpful to you with a new assignment.

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THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

You know what I notice about you? You're really down to earth!

She thinks I'm dirt!

Jumble not received

THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS
1. Attamp
5. Family member
9. A Beale
14. Recine
15. Actor Ken
16. Uncanny
17. Dies
18. Legal wrong
19. Century plant
20. Outlook
21. Ev
24. Gossip
25. Contemptibly
27. Indiana cagers
32. Bay window
33. "Till s -
35. Phrasal entry
37. - ammoniac
38. Ruby spen
39. Article
40. Having been
43. About ben -
45. Writer Farnes
46. Races
47. On the bank
50. Winkles
51. Saul - Mare
52. Lager
58. Drive
60. Anthracite
62. Athlete
63. Cigar end
64. Merit
65. Jags
66. Legal paper
67. - gn

DOWN
1. Undergarment
2. Bull Sp
3. Jet -
4. Kitchen gadget
5. Engines
6. Up in the air
7. Baiting masae
8. One opposed
9. Aiga
10. Two-year old sheep
11. Desert dwellers
12. Computer
13. Thin in tone

21. Jade
22. Muslim rulers
26. TV series
27. Poochie hat
28. Eastern nurse
29. Soft drink
30. Small hoover
31. The - Not
34. - Jury (Spillane)
36. Airt
38. Shirt bottoms
39. Tam
41. Greek letter
42. Ship officials
43. Or - with (equal to)
44. Lowers in rank
45. Closed sign
47. - in the Dark
48. One of a night
49. A rrrk
50. Use a rrrk
53. Frosted
54. Shelter

55. Prior to the Canyon
56. Pianist Peter
57. Unit of area
58. Old timer

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 24/8/94	Tokyo Close 24/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.5570	1.5555
Deutsche Mark	1.5311	1.5353
Swiss Franc	1.2910	1.2945
French Franc	5.2525	5.2490**
Japanese Yen	97.82	98.52
European Currency Unit	1.2400	1.2334**

150 Per 100
*European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Exchange Rate Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
Sterling Pound	4.56	4.75	5.06	5.54
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.12	5.68	6.50
Swiss Franc	4.62	4.68	4.81	5.06
French Franc	3.93	4.06	4.25	4.50
Japanese Yen	5.25	5.37	5.68	6.12
European Currency Unit	1.43	2.06	2.12	2.37
European Currency Unit	5.65	5.81	6.12	6.56

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.0753	1.0807
Deutsche Mark	0.4504	0.4527
Swiss Franc	0.5344	0.5371
French Franc	0.1313	0.1320
Japanese Yen	0.7030	0.7065
Dutch Guilder	0.4012	0.4032
Swedish Krona	0.0441	0.0443
Italian Lira	0.0441	0.0443
Belgian Franc	0.0441	0.0443

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8190	1.8320
Lebanese Lira	0.040475	0.041875
Saudi Riyal	0.1842	0.1853
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3450
Qatari Riyal	0.1889	0.1901
Egyptian Pound	0.2020	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7780	1.7940
UAE Dirham	0.1878	0.1887
Greek Drachma	0.2775	0.3275
Cypriot Pound	1.0000	1.5200

Iran, Turkmenistan launch \$7b gas pipeline project

NICOSIA (R) — The presidents of Iran and Turkmenistan launched a \$7 billion project Wednesday to carry Turkmen gas via Iran and Turkey to Europe in what was billed by Tehran as one of the world's biggest energy transfer deals.

Tehran Radio said Iran's Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Saparmurat Niyazov of Turkmenistan attended a ceremony south of Tehran where the first hole was dug to the ground.

Both men hailed the project as a symbol of cooperation in the strategic region stretching from Central Asia to the Gulf and Europe.

"This is one of the biggest energy transfer projects in the world," Tehran Radio quoted Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh as saying at the ceremony.

Mr. Rafsanjani and Mr. Niyazov signed the agreement to build the pipeline, which is by far Iran's biggest joint project with Muslim former Soviet republics, Tuesday.

It would take six to eight years to build and cost \$7 billion. The section in Iran would cost \$3.5 billion, half of which would be financed by Iran, according to Mr. Aqazadeh.

Mr. Rafsanjani, speaking at a conference on Islamic unity in Tehran later Wednesday, said the pipeline was a prime example of Islamic cooperation, the radio said.

"This great project will lead to extensive cooperation in the region — and this is what world arrogance cannot bear," he said, referring to expressed U.S. concern about the perceived threat of Iran expanding its influence in the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union.

"I share the (Iranian) president's belief that this project is very important for solidarity and unity of nations and security and stability of the region," the radio quoted Mr. Niyazov as saying before leaving Tehran for home later Wednesday.

The pipeline is crucial for Turkmenistan whose traditional gas export routes through Russia have been disrupted since the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991.

If and when completed, it will provide a new source of income for Iran in transit fees to supplement oil revenue which has been hit by weak crude oil prices in recent years.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Iran had the technology to build pipes of up to three metres (10 feet) in diameter for the line.

Mr. Aqazadeh said Tuesday that the pipeline would have an initial annual capacity of 15 billion cubic metres and would be expanded to 28 billion cubic metres in a second phase.

The transit fees and some other details of the deal would be decided in meetings over the next few months of a committee of Turkmen, Iranian, Turkish, Russian and Kazakh officials who will oversee the building of the pipeline, he said.

The next meeting is set for Turkey in January.

The pipeline agreement is for 25 years and the understanding is that the ownership of the section in Iran would be transferred to us after that period," Mr. Aqazadeh said.

That section would be 1,450 kilometres long, he said, out of a total length of 4,000 kilometres.

Tehran Radio said the pipeline would enter Iran east of the Caspian Sea, pass through the cities of Shahrud and Semnan and bend south of Tehran towards Tabriz and the Turkish border.

Shipping lines to raise cargo rates to Far East

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Thirteen shipping lines operating between the Gulf and the Far East are to hike freight rates by more than 12 per cent to recoup losses caused by a recent price war, shipping sources said Wednesday.

It will be the third freight increase in nearly a year as previous hikes failed to offset a decline in rates, the sources said.

Shipping sources attributed the decline in cargo prices to growing competition among shipping lines serving between the two regions.

"Most shipping lines are undercutting each other and new small companies are entering the service on this route," one source said.

"This has kept prices at very low levels and many companies now expect profits to be sharply lower. They had no alternative but to raise rates to avert more losses. It is not a risk but a stabilisation of rates."

Japan will not be included in the price increases as shipping companies are still making profits due to the surge in the yen against the U.S. dollar.

"We have a system called the Currency Adjustment Factor (CAF). The rise in the yen in CAF has offset the decline in rates on cargo to and from Japan," a shipping source in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) told AFP.

The new rise to take effect on Oct. 1 was set at \$150 a 20-foot container and \$300 per a 40-foot container.

Rates currently range between \$1,200 and \$1,300 per 20-foot containers and double that sum per 40-foot containers. A couple of years ago they were as high as \$1,500 and \$1,600 per small containers and double for big containers.

The sources said the new increases would have a little effect on prices of goods coming from the Far East, arguing they would just make up for the decline in the past three years.

Routes between the Far East and ports in Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE — will be affected.

The Far East is a key commercial partner of the region, with a two-way trade exceeding \$30 billion a year. With the inclusion of Japan, trade could reach over \$70 billion a year.

The freight hike was announced by 13 shipping lines operating in the oil-rich region, including the United Arab Shipping Company, which is owned by the governments of five GCC countries. Other lines include Maersk, CMA CGM, DBA-Senator, American President Lines, Sealand, NYR and Wilhelmsen Lines.

In a statement issued late Tuesday, the companies said they saw "a strong need to restore rates" in order "to continue offering efficient services to the trade amid serious rate deterioration in general."

Shipping executives said there was no plan to raise rates on services to and from the United States and Europe, as there was almost no competition on those routes.

"Services between the region and Europe and the Americas are more organised than those with Asia. Rates are registered periodically with the authorities there and observed by the operating companies," a shipping source said. "This means the shipping line can undercut another."

Saudi firm to help construct photo-satellite

The United States has approved the participation of a Saudi company in a project for the manufacture of a photo-satellite, despite the objections of Israel and the CIA.

The Saudi company joined as an equity investor in the consortium of three companies already working on the EYEGLASS satellite.

In return for its investment, the company will be provided with satellite services.

The EYEGLASS satellite can view objects as small as one metre.

The U.S. Army and the CIA opposed a Saudi role in the project, but the U.S. Commerce Department supported its participation, finally approving the company's investment — Jerusalem Post.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3750/60	Canadian dollar	0.7000/10
	1.5432/42	Deutsche mark	0.6300/10
	1.7318/28	Dutch guilder	0.3600/10
	1.3010/20	Swiss franc	0.7500/10
	31.82/86	Belgian franc	0.3300/10
	5.2920/70	French franc	0.1600/10
	1572.2/3.7	Italian lire	0.0000/10
	98.60/70	Japanese yen	0.0000/10
	7.6693/93	Swedish crown	0.0000/10
	6.7790/40	Norwegian crown	0.0000/10
	6.1036/86	Danish crown	0.0000/10
One sterling	\$1.5510/20		
One ounce of gold	\$382.15/32.65		

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دولت

Kenya says grain imports ban is war against West

NAIROBI (R) — Kenyan authorities said Wednesday that a six-month ban imposed on grain imports was a protectionist measure against dumping of cereals by the West.

"The Kenyan farmer has been affected badly by heavy dumping from the international powers. We have to fight back," said Simeon Nyachae, agriculture and marketing minister.

Mr. Nyachae told a news conference the government had also acted to curb rampant cheating by private importers who brought in grains at subsidised costs but sold at domestic market value.

He said private importers — mainly millers — held 4.0 million kilogramme bags of maize compared to the 4.2 million bags held by state-run National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB).

Independent agricultural economists pointed to imported sugar, bought at a total cost of \$122 per tonne and sold at a wholesale price of \$662 per tonne in the capital Nairobi.

Mr. Nyachae said that the ban did not affect cross-border trade involving neighbours Uganda and Tanzania and that importers who had already signed contracts or whose consignments were at sea would be allowed to offload their goods.

Kenyan have increased their wheat and maize imports in the last several years owing to prolonged drought, Mr. Nyachae said.

Mr. Nyachae suspended all imports of maize and wheat except humanitarian supplies on Aug. 12 to protect local farmers.

At that time Mr. Nyachae also refused to rescind a variable tax on imported commodities such as maize and wheat announced in June and opposed by some countries including the United States.

Blackburn blank Leicester, Leeds beat Arsenal

LONDON (R) — Chris Sutton and Alan Shearer showed why Blackburn boss Kenny Dalglish splashed out \$3.3 million (£2.2 million) on them with a brilliant display in a 3-0 home victory over Leicester in the English Premier League on Tuesday.

The two strikers, playing together for only the second time, scored once each and were also involved in the third.

Arsenal, rated potential contenders for the title, suffered a surprising defeat when goalkeeper Dave Seaman blundered away a goal in the 89th minute of a 1-0 loss to Leeds.

Blackburn, second to Manchester United last season, started in a mood which threatened to sweep the promoted Leicester side away, with Sutton prominent.

The former Norwich man, 21, converted a pass from Shearer in the 19th minute with a drive from six metres that left goalkeeper Gavin Ward powerless.

Leicester fought back unavailingly before Blackburn regained their earlier dominance with a 59th minute goal.

A cross to the far post set up a firm header from Sutton which Shearer touched before Norwegian Henning Berg helped the ball over the line.

Shearer's late goal came on a rebound.

At Leeds, England keeper Seaman handed Leeds a last-gasp victory — in front of England coach Terry Venables.

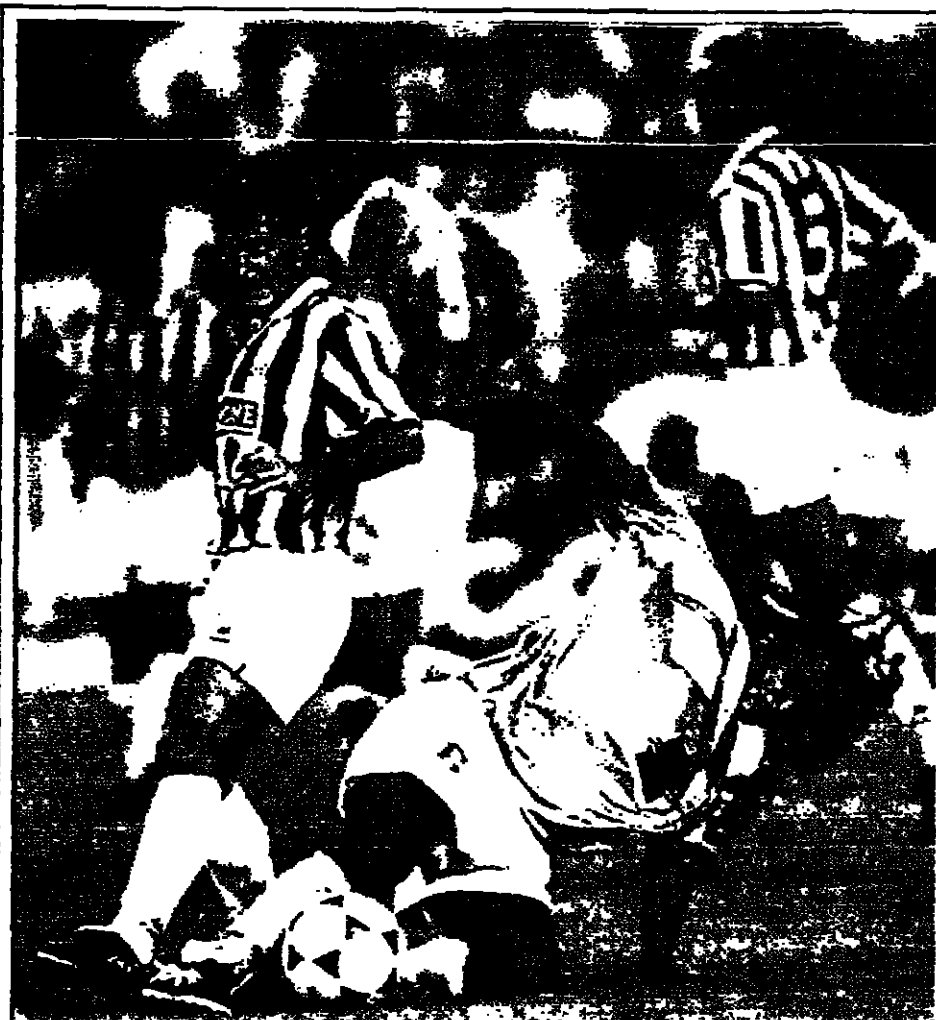
Seaman allowed a speculative 35-yard drive from substitute Noel Whelan to squeeze past him with under two minutes remaining.

Arsenal's Ian Wright had previously looked the most likely to break the deadlock but was foiled twice by former Arsenal keeper John Lukic.

In the other game on the Premier League programme, midfielder Simon Milton, on his 31st birthday, equalised his entire league goal output for last season with the 61st minute equaliser for Ipswich against Wimbledon.

Wimbledon seemed to be coasting towards victory courtesy of Dean Holdsworth's pile-driver when Milton punished a defensive error.

Chris Kiwomya's flick confused the Wimbledon defence and Scott Fitzgerald miskicked in attempting to clear, but only deflected the ball into the path of Milton who beat Hans Segers from eight yards.



Olympique Marseille midfielder Marcel Dib (right) struggles with his Juventus counter-part and former OM captain Didier Deschamps (left) during their friendly game held at the Velodrome stadium (AFP photo)

Al Faisali on their way to the Federation Shield

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Faisali have again reached the final of one of the Kingdom's four annual soccer competitions, and will add another record to their already long list of achievements if they win their final match of the Federation Shield Friday evening.

Al Faisali, Al Faisali and Al Ramtha have all won the title, three times each. Therefore, Al Faisali's win would set a new record in the competition reserved for first division teams only.

Al Faisali reached the final after eliminating all-time rival Al Wihdat 2-1 in the semifinal Tuesday. Star striker Jiryes Tadros and team captain Jamal

Abu Abed scored for Al Faisali, while Jihad Abdul Mun'em scored Al Wihdat's sole goal in the final minutes of the match attended by over 22,000 fans.

The other finalist will be either Al Hussein, seeking their first title, or Al Jazireh, pursuing their third.

Al Jazireh reached the semifinal after crushing Al Karmel 4-0. Al Hussein advanced after eliminating Al Qadisiyah 7-6 by penalty kicks.

Al Hussein have not won a major title for years. Their best achievement was finishing second in the first division in 1990 and 1992, and in the Federation Shield in 1987 and 1990.

Al Jazireh won the first Federation Shield title in 1981 by overcoming Al

Wihdat 8-7 by penalty kicks.

They then won the title by overcoming Al Faisali in 1986, and have not won a major title since.

Al Faisali have maintained the most consistent form among the Kingdom's top teams. They won the Cup Winner's Cup this month. In the 1993 season they clinched the first division, the Jordan Cup and the Cup Winner's Cup. In 1992 they won the shield, the Jordan Cup and the first division and in 1991 they clinched the Cup Winner's Cup and the shield.

Hence, Al Faisali seem well on their way to adding another trophy, especially after eliminating Al Wihdat and Al Ramtha who were both eyeing their fourth Federation Shield title.

Federation shield record

1981	Al Jazireh	1987	Al Faisali
1982	Al Wihdat	1988	Al Wihdat
1983	Al Wihdat	1989	Al Ramtha
1984	Amman	1990	Al Ramtha
1985	Amman	1991	Al Faisali
1986	Al Jazireh	1992	Al Faisali
		1993	Al Ramtha

Aberdeen crash out to Latvia

LONDON (R) — Aberdeen, European Cup Winners' Cup champions in 1983, crashed out of the UEFA Cup to Shonto Riga of Latvia in a major upset of the preliminary round on Tuesday.

The Scottish side, held 0-0 away in the first leg two weeks ago, could only draw 1-1 at home, going out on the away goals rule on their most humiliating night in European competition.

They were 1-0 down until the 90th minute when midfielder Paul Kane equalised after striker Alexei Semenov had put the Latvian champions, denied a place in the revamped European Cup, ahead 10 minutes into the second half.

Levski Sofia, who only last season eliminated Glasgow Rangers in the first round of the European Cup, also went out to Slovenia's SCT Olimpija, who beat the Bulgarians 2-1 away for a 5-3 aggregate victory.

Stamir Stojlov scored in the second minute to put Levski level on aggregate at 3-3. With two away goals from the first leg Levski must have fancied their chances of a place in the first round proper.

But Olimpija hit back through Doni Novak in the 24th minute and made sure of the tie with an 89th minute winner from Milan Pandin.

But other Minnow nations in the expanded UEFA Cup found the going against some bigger European names too tough, with several on the receiving end of big scores as 26 of the 28 ties were completed.

Akranes of Iceland are at home to Bangor City of Wales on Wednesday, when the second legs of the eight European Cup preliminary round ties are also played, along with two in the Cup Winners' Cup.

GKS Katowice of Poland were the biggest scorers on the night, 6-0 against Inter Cardiff of Wales for a 8-0 aggregate. Krzysztof Maciejewski and Krzysztof Walczak both scored twice.

Their fellow Poles Gornik Zabrze also completed a 8-0 aggregate victory over Shamrock Rovers of Ireland, winning 1-0 in Dublin with a second half goal by Henry Baluszynski after a 7-0 romp at home two weeks ago.

Rosenborg of Norway beat Luxembourg's Grevenmacher 6-0 for a 8-1 aggregate triumph. Roar Strand and Harald Brattbak both scored twice.

Fenerbahce and Motherwell both scored seven goals all told. The Turks beat Touran of Azerbaijan 2-0 away after winning the first leg 5-0. The Scots won 4-1 away to Havnar Bøltfelag on the Faroe Islands following a 3-0 victory at home.

Hibernians of Malta won an exciting home leg against Dinamo Minsk of Belarus 4-3 after extra time, but were eliminated 6-5 on aggregate.

The Czech Republic's Slovan Bratislava, who won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1969 as a Czechoslovak team, went through comfortably against Portadown of Northern Ireland, winning the second leg 3-0 at home for a 5-0 aggregate victory.

FC Copenhagen, who lost the first leg 1-0 at home, crushed FC Jazz of Finland 4-0 away.

Benetton team summoned over fire

PARIS (AFP) — Formula 1's world governing body FIA summoned the Benetton-Ford racing team to appear before an extraordinary meeting of its World Council on September 7, following allegations over a fire at the German Grand Prix, FIA said here Wednesday.

The team had been summoned to appear at the World Council's next meeting on October 19 to explain why a fire was missing from the refueling system — but FIA president Max Mosley wanted the issue dealt with sooner.

Benetton has denied the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) allegations that the flash fire at Hockenheim last month, which engulfed their driver Jos Verstappen and five mechanics, was caused by the illegal removal of the filter.

Earlier this month, after studying a report from Inter-technique, the French firm which provides Grand Prix refueling systems, FIA concluded the fuel nozzle jammed open because of a "foreign body" which was "believed to have reached the valve because a filter designed to eliminate this risk had been deliberately removed" against FIA rules.

Benetton said the fuel filter was only introduced during this season because other teams had problems with debris, but that Benetton "was able to eliminate this problem."

The fire was put out in seconds.

Meanwhile, FIA is to hear the appeal against Benetton's star driver Michael Schumacher's two-race ban — over a black flag incident at the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on July 10 — here on August 30.

Italian federation challenges judge over Ravenna case

ROME (R) — Italian soccer authorities were locked in a battle with the judicial system on Wednesday after saying they would ignore a judge's ruling that relegated Ravenna should be reinstated to the second division.

A judge in the Adriatic town of Ravenna last weekend ordered the federation to reinstate the club to the Serie B (second division), overturning their relegation last season.

Ravenna said that southern club, Cosenza, should be thrown out of the league for financial irregularities and that Ravenna should take their place instead of dropping to the third division.

The judge upheld Ravenna's claim because Cosenza had failed to meet the soccer authorities' own deadline for the payment of back taxes.

But she also ruled that Cosenza should retain their place in the Serie B because the club have now settled their arrears.

The unusual and complicated ruling left an extra club in the second division and meant fixtures would have to be rewritten.

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No more sex test for women athletes

VICTORIA, Canada (AFP) — The 15th Commonwealth Games are the first major international multi-sport event to drop gender testing for women, and now women's groups are pushing for the Olympics to do the same.

"The test is harassment of females," said Marg McGregor, executive director of the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport.

The group has pushed for an end to sex testing for 10 years, not only because it can be degrading but more importantly because the medical community says the procedure is unreliable.

"Even if a woman was on male hormones, they would still pass the test because it doesn't detect steroids," said Dr. Bob McCormack, chief medical officer for Canada's Commonwealth Games team.

The test can also miss up to 90 per cent of women who have a strength advantage through chromosomal disorders.

The test involves analysing a cell sample from the inside of the cheek and a hair. Analysts check for female X chromosomes and male Y chromosomes.

"It's quick and painless, but it's just the fact that you have to go through the whole procedure just to prove that you're female, whereas the men on the team don't have to do something like that," said Canadian swimmer Niki Dryder, who was glad to see the test go.

Men have competed as women in international competition. German Dora Ratzen, who was fourth in the women's high jump at the 1936 Olympics, was discovered to be a man 20 years later.

Suspensions about the gender of Soviet sisters Irina and Tamara Press, who won five Olympic medals between them and set 26 world records, eventually led to the imposition of sex testing at the Olympics in the 1960s.

Though athletes no longer have to parade naked in front of a gynaecologist, McGregor says the modern test is still unacceptable.

"The International Olympic Committee is steeped in tradition and the winds of change blow slowly," she said. "It's just blatant sexism on their part."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Wife-beating widespread in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Wife-beating is widespread in Kuwait but fear of social stigma ensures the victims never tell, a sociologist said in remarks published on Wednesday. "Much as we hate to admit it, domestic violence exists in all strata of Kuwaiti society and is increasing day by day," Hind Al Naqeb, professor of sociology at Kuwait University, was quoted as saying by the English-language Kuwait Times. "But the problem is masked and hidden by the fear of social stigma," she said in an interview. The newspaper gave no figures but reported psychology professor Ahmad Al Quraishi as saying most men who battered their wives had seen fathers hit their mothers, or been beaten up themselves. They grew up to accept it as normal, he said. "Most of these battered women belong to extremely close-knit and respectable families and if such a thing came to light it would only tarnish their reputation," Ms. Naqeb said. She said several of her students used to be beaten "black and blue" by husbands. One bedouin student had her nose broken. "When I urged her to take legal action she surprised me by saying her husband was not at fault, rather it was her mistake for provoking him."

Extremist settler leaves jail

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Jewish settler emerged from Israeli jail on Wednesday after being held for six months following the Hebron mosque massacre vowing to continue his fight against the government. "Prison has not changed my ideas at all and I shall continue fighting the government's policy by legal means," said Ben Zion Gupstein, 25, after serving six months of administrative detention at Shamon prison near Tel Aviv. He was arrested along with eight other Jewish extremists after settler Baruch Goldstein shot dead 30 Arab worshippers in a Hebron mosque. Gupstein is a student at a Talmudic seminary in Kyrat Arba, the settlement on the edge of Hebron which was also Goldstein's home. Four other Jewish extremists are still in detention including Baruch Marzel, leader of the outlawed anti-Arab Kach movement. In June the authorities extended Marzel's period of detention by another three months.

Iran seizes 200 kilos of morphine

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police seized 200 kilograms of morphine in southeastern Iran and arrested three suspected drug traffickers, a newspaper reported Wednesday. Sevan said the drugs, hidden in a truck, were seized Tuesday near the town of Bam in Kerman province. More than 50 tonnes of drugs, mainly opium from Afghanistan and Pakistan, have been seized in Iran since March. The figure for the whole of 1993 was 95 tonnes. Drug trafficking and use are strictly banned in Iran under a law passed in 1988 that lays down a maximum penalty of death.

Iraq to repay \$2b debt to Bulgaria

SOFIA (R) — Iraq will repay Bulgaria a \$2 billion debt mostly with oil supplies after the United Nations embargo is lifted, Iraqi Ambassador to Sofia Mohammad Amin Ahmad told a news conference on Wednesday. "Iraq is keenly interested in restoring active economic links with Bulgaria and is prepared to repay Bulgaria its debt as soon as the U.N. embargo is lifted," the ambassador said speaking through an interpreter. "Iraq's debt was a natural result of the big trade turnover between the two countries, which was abruptly cut by the U.N. imposed embargo," he added. The debt, \$1.5 billion plus interest, was run up between 1982 and 1990. Bulgaria, like other countries in Eastern Europe, supplied Iraq with arms and other goods in return for crude oil during the war with Iran.

Pakistan's Shutto to visit Gaza

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Shutto plans to visit the Gaza Strip on Sept. 4 to meet Palestinian leaders, the Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday. Ms. Shutto will be the first head of government to visit Palestinian-administered Gaza since self-rule began in May. From there she will go to Cairo for a three-day visit to attend a U.N. population conference.

German dead, 4 missing in 'flying boat' crash

ANKARA (R) — A German man died and another German went missing after their "flying boat" plunged into the Mediterranean off the southern Turkish coast, police said on Wednesday. "The boat, fixed to a kind of paraglider, crashed into the sea after its motor failed and the wind suddenly changed," said a police official in a provincial capital, Antalya. The accident happened at a holiday village in Serik, about 40 kilometres east of Antalya town, on Tuesday afternoon. The air-filled motorboat was suspended by a triangular wing, like a paraglider. A second boat pulled it along at sea until it took off. It was apparently designed so that it could glide down to the sea where it could be used like a boat. Anatolian news agency said the boat dropped 100 metres into the sea.

Russian aeronautic team visits Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — A high-level Russian delegation is visiting Iran to discuss transferring aeronautic technology to the Islamic republic and swapping helicopters for Iranian goods, a newspaper reported here Wednesday. The delegation, grouping representatives from Russia's aircraft industry, wanted to see for itself the potential of the Iranian aircraft industry and explore ways of future cooperation, the Komsomolskiy daily said. The paper said a Russian firm, MI, had plans to build a base in Iran to train pilots to operate CH-47 helicopters, it said. The delegation also hoped to "sell" Russian-made helicopters to Iran for products which Russia needs," the paper added. Newspapers said here in November that Iran planned to buy or lease 30 Russian helicopters, including the giant MI-26, to ferry passengers and for relief operations.

Kuwait paper: Oman foiled Islamist plot

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti newspaper said on Wednesday that Oman has arrested more than 200 people after foiling an Islamist fundamentalist plot, the first of its kind against the government of Oman's Sultan Qaboos since the 1970s. The newspaper Al Siyassah and its sister English-language Arab Times quoted what they called highly-informed sources as saying civil servants were apparently involved in the plot. It said they belonged to fundamentalist groups that were not previously known to be active in Oman. The newspaper gave few other details. Oman has said nothing about such a plot and officials in Muscat were not immediately available to comment on the report which also said large amounts of cash had been found with the plotters. But diplomats in the Gulf said reports filtering out of Oman suggested there had been a crackdown against Islamic militants in the conservative state.

Italy, Netherlands pledge \$5m to Yemen

SANAA (R) — Italy and the Netherlands pledged about \$5 million of aid to Yemen in response to a United Nations appeal to cover urgent food and health needs after its civil war, a U.N. official said on Wednesday. Nejjib Freji, the U.N. spokesman in the Yemeni capital Sanaa, said Italy pledged \$4 million in food aid to be delivered before the end of September, while the Netherlands pledged a total of \$750,000 to UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Mr. Freji said \$530,000 of the Dutch aid will go to UNICEF for immunising children, while the rest will go to the WHO to launch a campaign of anti-diarrhoea drug distribution.

Homeless in Beirut

PALESTINIAN refugees live in the streets of Beirut after they were expelled from squatted buildings in the Lebanese capital. The Lebanese government is cleaning areas of Beirut squatted during the war (1975-1990) but thousands of Palestinian families have no place to go since their camps have been destroyed by militia. The government said Wednesday it was planning to acquire land to build homes to accommodate 3,000 families (AFP photo)



Land-based verification regime goes effective at Aqaba today

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The first vessel to dock at Aqaba without being intercepted by high-sea inspectors in the last four years is expected at the Red Sea port late Thursday or early Friday after off-shore operations are replaced by a land-based verification regime at Thursday noon. The replacement of inspections by warships by observations by the London-based Lloyd's Register of Shipping ends an uneasy chapter in shipping at Aqaba, the worst-hit port in the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The inspection, carried out by a U.S.-led naval fleet enforcing the punitive international sanctions against Iraq, have cost Jordan more than \$1 billion in extra freight and related charges in the last four years. Aqaba-bound ships were summarily refused entry or diverted to other ports to rearrange cargo for inspections, or allowed in only after the cargo rearrangement is done on the spot to the satisfaction of the inspection.

As a result, ships were unable to use their full cargo capacity and were delayed for days as a result of diversions. The lucky ones, in full compliance with the inspectors' guidelines and documentation requirements, were delayed by a minimum of 24 hours at the inspection point at the Tiran Straits at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba if they arrived at sunset. To make allowances for these problems and offset the losses caused by the delays and cargo limitations, ship-owners hiked freight rates to and from Aqaba, and Jordanian importers and exporters paid the price. Officials, shipping agents and importers are all upbeat over the end to the offshore inspection. "As the shape of things to come, a ship was allowed in yesterday (Tuesday) with superficial inspections," said Tawfiq Kassar, chairman of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JSAA). "It was the first time that the inspectors allowed in a ship with containers stacked five-high." At noon today, the warships stationed at the Tiran Straits will move away while an eight-member team of Lloyd's Surveyors will formally take up position at the port of Aqaba to work in coordination with the ports and customs authorities to verify that goods arriving at the port conform with the documents accompanying them. Deputy spokesman Colonel Douglas Kennett said the intercept operations underway in the Red Sea will be suspended "for a one-month intensive period" beginning Thursday.

If Lloyd's Register decides this method is "effective," Kennett said, "maritime interception operations in the Red Sea will end." He explained that the government of Jordan sought these procedural changes. Meanwhile, ships bound for and proceeding from Iraq through the Gulf will be inspected by a multi-national naval task force which includes 84 U.S. ships. The navies of the U.S. and 13 other nations have intercepted 21,392 ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf since the intercept operation began four years ago. Of these 11,935 were in the Red Sea, which became the primary search zone after the Gulf War closed down Iraqi ports in 1991.

Of the ships challenged, 9,710 have been boarded by naval teams according to U.S. navy figures. Most were in the Red Sea. Jordan had boycotted peace talks with Israel since the end of March to protest the U.N. blockade of Aqaba. But after Washington agreed in April to switch to land-based verification, peace talks resumed and culminated in the July 25 declaration by Israel to end the 46-year state of war between them, giving fresh impetus to the stalled peace process.

Following the transition period, and upon verification that the Lloyd's Register operation is effective, maritime interception operations in the Red Sea will end," Commander T. McCreary, spokesman for the Gulf-based U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, said in a statement. Jordan's contribution to the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace process, and the speed with which it is moving towards a peace treaty with Israel it is highly likely that the Red Sea inspections will be formally lifted after the trial period. "The procedures have been changed in response to requests from the government of Jordan," Cmdr. McCreary said. He stressed that U.S. naval forces will continue to operate in the Red Sea, a strategic waterway on Saudi Arabia's western seaboard that links the Indian Ocean with the Suez Canal in the north. "The U.S. has interests in the region that go beyond the multinational intercept operations conducted over the last four years," he added. He said the American warships currently conducting Red Sea inspections are the cruiser USS Leyte Gulf, the destroyer USS Conolly, the frigate USS John L. Hall and the support vessel USS Merrimack. U.S. Coast Guard Squadron 42, embarked in Leyte Gulf, commands the U.S. Red Sea maritime interception group.

Signs emerge of steady moves heralding Iraqi return to oil market

By Mariam Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A call this week by an Arab member of the Israeli Knesset for a lifting of economic sanctions on Iraq and the announcement that the deputy is to meet the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations are indications that a campaign for Iraq's rehabilitation is picking up steam.

Knesset member Abdul Wahab Darawseh said Tuesday he planned to see Iraq's U.N. ambassador during a visit to New York, Israeli Radio said Wednesday. The Israeli press has been suggesting Iraqi-born cabinet ministers Moshe Shahal and Benjamin Ben Eliezer as middlemen in clandestine Israeli-Iraqi talks. Mr. Darawseh's announcement that he is meeting with the Iraqi envoy brings greater credibility to what has been essentially a series of speculations and comments made by anonymous sources.

Four years after a U.N.-imposed economic embargo on Iraq, the oil-rich country is still being treated like a pariah by the sole superpower, the United States. But Iraq's regional importance and oil wealth as well as its potential buying power make its re-entry in the international arena a big deed.

There are many confusing signals as to when and how the changes involving Iraq will take place. What seems almost certain, however, is that change is coming.

First, there was a reported clandestine meeting between an Iraqi defence official and Israelis, and then an approach to Israel's U.N. envoy "to talk peace" by the Iraqi U.N. ambassador in New York. The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Siyassah quoted a Palestinian member of the Palestinian-Israeli economic cooperation committee as saying that "secret talks" encompassing economic cooperation and oil sales had been held. Israel, the Palestinian source said, wants to buy 100,000 barrels of oil a day for consumption and Iraq is willing to sell. Whether the 100,000 barrels would be added to the package which Iraq will sell the Palestinian self-rule authority 25,000 barrels a day through Jordan at \$9 a barrel is still unclear.

Another subject related to oil sales was reportedly discussed at the clandestine meeting in Europe was an Israeli request to use the port of Haifa as the outlet of Iraqi oil to Europe in the post-peace era, according to the Al Siyassah. An unnamed Jordanian marine company is looking into the possibilities of reopening an abandoned oil pipeline that used to pump Iraqi oil through Jordan to Haifa, according to the report.

Recent visits by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz to Morocco and a previous visit to Italy at the beginning of the summer both involved the "possible dialogue" with Israelis, Iraqi officials have hinted.

Morocco has been a traditional intermediary between Israel and Arab countries. Mr. Aziz's visit to Morocco came days after Jordan made public statements saying that no comprehensive peace in the region could be achieved without Iraq.

Iraq responded by saying it would do its own diplomatic work and did not need Jordan to do talking on its behalf. But an Israeli-Iraqi dialogue is only one aspect of the new "Iraqi equation," as one European diplomat called it.

Despite French, Russian and Chinese protests every 60 days the U.N. sanctions are simply renewed without too much ado. Attempts by the Turks to repair and reopen an oil pipeline, a bid by Pakistan to open airways allowing easier access for Shiite worshippers to visit Karbala and Najaf, and pleas by Russia to recommence its pre-crisis projects have all been stalled for the moment.

Even the Iraqi Kurds, the pet project of aid agencies, have now been pushed aside by the more urgent needs in Bosnia, Rwanda, Yemen and the like. A cut in the number of U.N. guards protecting the Kurds in the northern semi-autonomous regions have been decreased again after only 20 per cent of the \$288 million needed to upkeep the U.N. operation were raised.

But parallel to this, unilateral steps to create change have also been taken. In mid-August, Turkey reopened its Harbur border crossing with Iraq. Days later the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Syria met in Damascus

to "restate their support for Iraq's unity." A statement widely interpreted to be anti-Kurdish was also a signal to Baghdad and the West that Iraq's neighbours were concerned about the sanctioned nation.

Pakistan, one of more than a dozen Asian nations to have reopened their embassies in Baghdad, has offered to mediate with Kuwait on Iraq's behalf to help end sanctions. Pakistan currently has a seat on the U.N. Security Council.

According to Iraqi officials who speak on condition of anonymity, there are several things on the agenda of discussion with Americans, Israelis and Europeans that indicate how conflicting the different interests are.

"First of all Iraq is interested in getting sanctions lifted or at least relaxed. This is a number one priority," said one Iraqi government official.

"There are an increasing number of conditions from different parties on how to achieve this," he said.

According to Iraqi officials the conditions that their country is expected to meet are being dictated primarily, but not exclusively, by the United States and allies of the U.S. government.

First there are issues of preferential trade relationships with U.S. firms — construction, reconstruction, petroleum etc. Then there is the issue of the peace talks.

French, German, Russian, Turkish, Polish, Romanian, Japanese, Indian

(Continued on page 7)

COLUMN

Cat bites dog, saves baby

AUCKLAND (AFP) — Forget cartoon lion kings, New Zealand had a real feline heroine in the form of a grey Abyssinian cat called Puss who took on a big dog to save her human family's baby. The New Zealand Herald reported that when Amber Logan saw a big black dog run at her baby she thought the animal was going to grab three-month-old India. But Puss leapt to the defence of India, who was strapped into a portable seat on the porch. "I looked up and this huge black dog was running down the path," Logan said. "I thought, 'oh my God, it's going to grab the baby.' However, Puss jumped on the Doberman/German Shepherd cross and dug her teeth and claws into the dog's back. Logan grabbed India as Puss continued the battle. "The dog threw Puss off its back but the cat jumped back on to its head, sticking her claws in and she bit its eye. The dog yelped and took off and the cat took off after it," she said. Puss did not return and Logan thought her five-year-old cat must have been killed. But, early Tuesday, Puss crawled home. Later she was taken to a vet to have her severe bruising attended to. Local authorities are looking for the dog.

Fujimori strips wife of official status

LIMA (R) — Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said he was stripping his wife of her official functions as first lady because of her "incomprehensible" criticism of the government and apparent wish to become president herself. "I have decided to separate my wife (Susana Higuchi) from her functions as first lady," Mr. Fujimori said in a late night televised address to the nation. "From now on, Mrs. Higuchi can carry out her political activities in open opposition to the government when and where she pleases, like any citizen, but not as first lady," he added. Mr. Fujimori has been visibly annoyed by public statements by Ms. Higuchi, from whom he has been living apart since her public protest this month over an electoral law that bans her from seeking office or criticising his rule. Ms. Higuchi, who uses her maiden name, has made "generalised and vague accusations" of corruption in the government, fuelling uncertainty and damaging the country's image abroad, the president said. Mr. Fujimori, who for the last two weeks has been sleeping in Peru's army headquarters known as the "Little Pentagon" with three of their four children, made no reference to the presidential couple's marital status.

Diana posing for a portrait session

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana, who says she feels she's being destroyed by allegations which she denies about crank phone calls, put on a brave face Tuesday for a portrait session with artist Nelson Shanks. Princess Diana was pictured smiling as she arrived in her chauffeur-driven car for the session with the American artist at a studio at Chelsea in west London. But the 33-year-old princess looked serious as she again encountered press photographers when she left the studio two hours later holding a bunch of pink roses given to her by Shanks, who is ranked one of America's top artists. Scotland Yard confirmed Tuesday that police investigated a series of crank calls to wealthy London art dealer Oliver Hoare, which press reports say were traced of Princess Diana's private phone line. News Of The World reported Sunday that police investigated some 300 silent calls were traced to Princess Diana's private line in Kensington Palace, her mobile phone, phone booths near the palace and other phones she had access to. London's police chief Sir Paul Condon said Tuesday Scotland Yard will not investigate the leak. His statement followed one by News Of The World editor Piers Morgan which said the source for his paper's story was not a serving police officer.